

Why did drivers ignore screams of rape victim?

By DANIEL McGROarty

PEOPLE returning home from work and local residents expressed their astonishment and disgust last night that evening rush-hour drivers did not stop to rescue a woman who was beaten and raped on a busy street in Chislehurst, southeast London.

The 36-year-old senior civil servant fought the rapist for almost five minutes under the glare of street lights while motorists idling in a traffic jam ignored her screams for help. The woman was so badly beaten, police say, that there is not an inch of her face that is not cut or bruised. Her cheekbone has been broken and her nose badly swollen.

The woman usually walks the short route home from Chislehurst station with her boyfriend. But on Tuesday night, when she was assaulted, he had to attend a reception.

Women walking their dogs on the Chislehurst cricket ground, where the attack happened, yesterday condemned as cowards those who refused to help her. The attacked woman, who was released from hospital yesterday, told police she was so close to the traffic that she could clearly distinguish the faces of drivers staring at her while she was grappling on wet grass to fight off the slightly built rapist.

Detectives say that scores of motorists in Watts Lane would have seen the woman being punched and then dragged through a thick gorse bush. But despite police appeals for help no one has come forward.

Police last night set up a road block in Watts Lane at the same time as the woman's civil servant was attacked, but they described the reaction from homecoming commuters as "a very poor response".

Mrs Jan Kidd, who lives close to the cricket ground, left work early yesterday to walk

her dog in daylight. She said:

"I cannot believe that no one lifted a finger. They should be ashamed of themselves. Nobody wants to get involved, which is appalling. How can any woman feel safe?"

Gordon Westley, 73, a retired Ministry of Defence officer living in the area, said: "It's an indictment of the way we live that people choose to look the other way. At my age if I saw what must have been an obvious beating of a woman you would step in. This should shame us all."

Detectives were reluctant to condemn those who drove past, saying the public were increasingly afraid to intervene for fear of being attacked or knifed themselves, or finding they faced legal action.

Detective Inspector Dave Gaywood, who is leading the hunt for the rapist, said: "You would like to think if someone saw such an attack they would have phoned the police or intervened in some way. Who knows, if someone had got out of that car that young woman

might not have been raped."

The attacked woman told police yesterday how during her ordeal she made a conscious decision to remember every detail about the man, who had threatened that he had a knife and would kill her if she did not stop screaming.

She described him as aged 28-33, white, about 5ft 7in tall, thin, well dressed, clean shaven and well spoken with a London accent. He was wearing an expensive black leather jacket and black trousers and she remembers "he smelt very clean".

The woman had taken her usual 6.08pm train from Charing Cross to Chislehurst, arriving at about 6.50. She was ten minutes into her 25-minute walk home carrying two heavy supermarket carrier bags when she felt a man grab her hair and try to steal her shoulder bag.

She turned and stared at him, but he punched her hard in the face three or four times. The woman said they fought and struggled on the pavement for as much as five minutes until the assailant pushed a 3in metal object into her mouth and knocked her to the ground, repeatedly kicking her in the face and body.

He then pulled her through a thick 5ft high gorse hedge, which must have left her with cuts. After raping her he calmly emptied her purse onto the grass and took money and credit cards, repeating his warning that he would stab and kill her if she tried to escape or shout for help.

On the other side of the hedge rush-hour traffic was at a standstill on Watts Lane and cars approaching the mini-roundabout would have had a clear view.

After the attack, the woman flagged down a woman motorist, who drove her to Chislehurst police station. The driver then left and would only give her name as Maureen.



Too busy, too scared or too anxious to get home

By DANIEL McGROarty

YESTERDAY rush-hour motorists were too busy trying to cope with the traffic jam at the mini-roundabout by Chislehurst Cricket Club to pay attention to police hunting the rapist who attacked a civil servant there 48 hours earlier.

Cars converged from five roads into one of south London's most notorious bottlenecks. Staring ahead, drivers ignored the steady procession of homecoming commuters who walked up the steep Summer Hill from Chislehurst station, moving faster than the stalled traffic.

A senior detective said last night: "Chivalry is dead. I'm afraid. The sign of the time is that no one sees, no one hears and no one cares. Everyone

looks the other way because they are too busy or too scared.

They think if they intervene they might get knifed by some madman or end up facing a court summons themselves. But how can so many people, driving and walking, ignore a woman being punched and kicked and screaming for five minutes?

As the victim walked up Summer Hill carrying two heavy supermarket bags, she would have passed the brightly-lit entrances to two private estates of mews houses and detached properties. She would have quickened her step past woodland and glanced down at the Christmas decorations festooning the Rambler's Rest pub before crossing the stationary traffic and heading down Watts Lane.

alongside the cricket pitch. Cars idling on the hill give their drivers an uninterrupted view of the pitch. The victim had walked only 20 yards along Watts Lane, clearly lit by small white street lamps, when she was attacked from behind. There are no houses here but the pavement is narrow, with barely enough room for two people to pass, let alone struggle for five minutes.

Until this week, Chislehurst has thought of itself as a close community. Each street boasts a Neighbourhood Watch and there are self-help organisations for working residents and for the many retired people who live here. But nobody who walked the street came to rescue the rape victim.

Conservative spin doctors bemoan trend of confessional interviews

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY politicians have been warned against confessional interviews after Tony Blair became the latest political heavyweight to be tripped up by his past. Conservative Central Office could scarcely conceal its glee after Mr Blair's account of the day he played truant on a plane bound for the Bahamas was instantly contradicted by his father.

The Labour leader is the latest in a long line of politicians to try to exploit their family misfortunes only to see the strategy backfire. Only yesterday John Major's attempt to win women voters backfired when his claim in an interview in *Good Housekeeping* that he called his wife "Little Grub", was denied by Mrs Major. "We don't have nicknames for each other. What rubbish," she said.

But his father, Leo, 73, said: "He only made it to the airport."

The confusion about the teenage runaway's flight of fancy has led to one tabloid newspaper to try to induce the air stewardess to come forward, who escorted the young stowaway off the charter flight at Newcastle Airport, with the offer of a free holiday on the sunshine island. Labour is taking a more relaxed view. But one of the party's spin doctors said: "We may insist they rigorously check the facts before they hark on about childhood adventures which can be checked."

John Major is the only man among six candidates nominated for the Radio 4 Today programme's News Personality of the Year. The winner will be announced on Friday.

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Norma Major: denied being called Mrs Grub



Nick Banks, left, and Russell Senior, of Pulp, with a model of the building, designed as a pair of drums

It's only rock and roll, but will they really like it in Sheffield?

It might not be on Route 66 but when it comes to rock, Caitlin Moran finds Sheffield does have something to sing about



AT FIRST glance, Sheffield's pedigree as a citadel full of mousies setting the world's front pages alight is slightly limited: Joe Cocker, long-haired heavy metal band Def Leppard and indie's flavour-of-the-month The Longships do not a Memphis make.

Manchester has kicked out musical prodigies on a regular basis — New Order, Happy Mondays, The Smiths, Simply Red and the Bee Gees. London is where everyone ends up. And Hay-on-Wye is prettier. I mean, no one ever runs away from home to the glittering lights of Sheffield.

And besides, just how horrible is the idea of a rock museum? Youth's febrile kick isn't meant to be pinned down under glass; catharsis cannot be catalogued, and cool isn't something that a

display of old rockers' trousers can adequately convey.

Pop pilgrimages — something that rock museums presumably aspire to cater for — are far too personal for that. The first time I ran away from home for rock'n'roll, me and a friend headed for Aberystwyth, and the beach where the late, unlamented prog rock band Levitation first took acid.

We only got as far as Shrewsbury before the band broke up, and we realised that they were overrated anyway. But there is still

Marc Bolan's tree in Richmond, the Beatles' pub (The Grapes next to the Cavendish) and Joy Division's Ian Curtis's grave in Manchester for those days when youths just want to have a wallow in pop's sticky-sweet nostalgia. However Sheffield does have some arguments in its favour. It has a secret pop history that deserves to be more widely promoted: there is a strong case to be made for local avant-gardists Cabaret Voltaire having invented the influential Detroit Techno movement. ABC's

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Lottery cash puts pop on the map

By DALYA ALBERG
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SHEFFIELD won £9.5 million of lottery cash yesterday to create Britain's first National Centre for Popular Music. It intends to blur the boundaries between classical, rock and pop, reminding the world that Mozart arias were hummed in the streets in the 18th century.

The grant from the Arts Council's National Lottery department was announced by Russell Senior and Nick Banks from the Sheffield pop band Pulp.

The centre, which will celebrate music from around the world, will not collect memorabilia. Instead it will rely on loans from private and public collections such as the Radio 1 archive and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Stuart Rogers, the chief executive, said that he was often asked how he defined pop music: "We hope people will decide that after they leave the centre. We want to broaden what they think is pop. It's wider than anyone appreciates, particularly now, with Pavarotti in Hyde Park doing what the Rolling Stones did 25 years ago."

Tim Strickland, the creative director, said: "We will focus primarily on post-1945. But you can't omit folk and music hall and the popular end of classical and opera."

Future exhibitions will include the changing form of sound systems, with displays of wax cylinders, jukeboxes and digital technology and a history of musical instruments. Educational programmes are planned for schoolchildren.

The overall cost of the centre will be £15 million. From the summer of 1998 the organisers hope to attract 400,000 visitors a year. Sheffield was one of 67 lottery beneficiaries yesterday. Among others, London Electronic Arts, a cultural centre in Hoxton, east London, received £2.8 million and the regional film theatre at the Cornerhouse, Manchester, won £1.17 million for refurbishments.

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Rivals squabble as universities bid for share of £700m

Cambridge disputes Oxford's supremacy in research ratings

By JOHN O'LEARY
AND DAVID CHARTER

OXFORD and Cambridge were both claiming victory yesterday in the four-yearly university research ratings, which influence the distribution of £700 million of government money.

The £2 million exercise measured the quality of research in 69 different subjects, but the complex ratings system left the two universities so close that the outcome varied according to the method of calculation chosen.

Universities and colleges were allowed to decide how many of their staff should have their work examined. Oxford, by entering 91 per cent of its academics, triumphed among those entered for assessment, but Cambridge, which entered 98 per cent, had the best score when all staff were taken into account.

An Oxford spokesman said the university had omitted a number of staff whose duties were primarily administrative. "We followed the rules of the exercise and used our own best judgment." At Cambridge, a spokeswoman said the university regarded itself as recording the highest score, which would be demonstrated when research budgets were allocated.

The London School of Economics, which had been lobbying the higher education funding councils for three months to publish official league tables, produced its own analysis, claiming second place, with Cambridge first and Oxford third.

The funding councils, which



Fender: said standards were improving everywhere

commissioned 60 panels of experts to produce the ratings, said the assessments were not designed to compile a single table.

The University of Portsmouth, which entered one scholar in the Slavonic and East European Languages assessment, earned a grade five. Ralph Clemenson, currently on a two-year sabbatical and working at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, discovered the oldest-known Slovaka Church manuscript last year.

Peter Skehan, Professor of English language teaching at Thames Valley University, where linguistics gained a five, said the grading would help it to attract high-calibre students. Part of the research was into language use within multilingual communities in Britain.

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Westbury MP, Mr Paice, said: "I would not wish to discourage healthy rivalry which can drive up standards. However, this sort of scheme may lead to wasteful competition if other institutions attempt to match or top the incentives."

George Bright, the principal, said the offer had been made to attract and keep students when the college restarted A-level teaching after a three-year break.

further education, called it a waste of money. He said he did not welcome the scheme, although he acknowledged that legislation allowed colleges to offer bursaries. Inducements being offered by further education colleges range from £1,200 for high-flyers by Teesside College to driving lessons by Kendal College and free trips to Disneyland Paris by Walsall College of Arts and Technology.

In a letter to David Faber, the Education Minister responsible for

Westbury MP, Mr Paice, said: "I would not wish to discourage healthy rivalry which can drive up standards. However, this sort of scheme may lead to wasteful competition if other institutions attempt to match or top the incentives."

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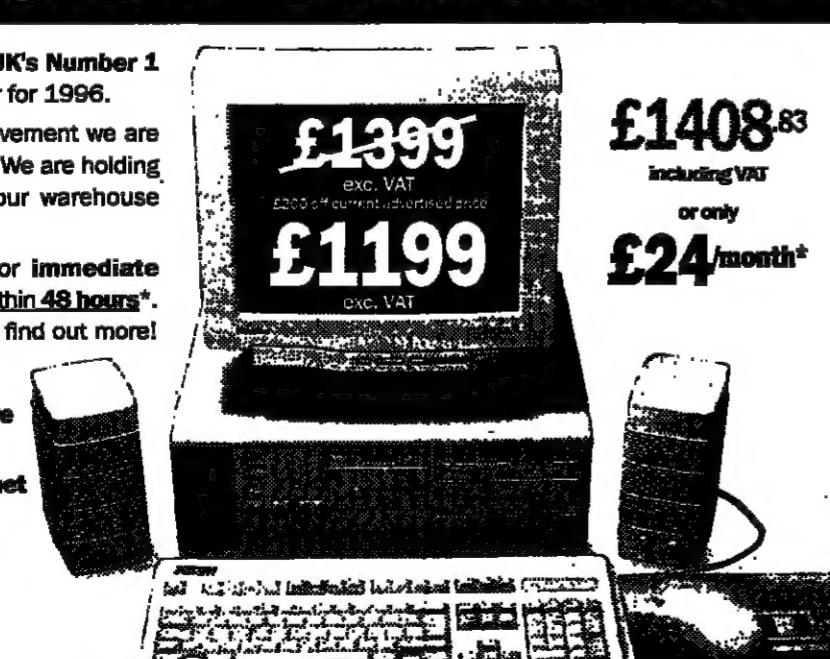
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THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

HOME NEWS 5

BBC plans to capture dying breath for TV series

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE BBC is considering filming the last moments of a terminally ill man or woman as part of a series of seven programmes charting human life from the cradle to the grave.

Researchers have begun approaching very old people and may ask them whether they can record their dying breath in the final episode of *The Human Body*, to be shown in 1998.

MPs yesterday described the idea as "macabre" and "beyond belief". The National Viewers and Listeners' Association warned the BBC to tread carefully over such sensitive ground.

It is the second time that the BBC has set out to break one of the last taboos in broadcasting — filming the moment of death other than as part of film footage in a news bulletin. Last year more than a hundred MPs signed a Commons motion protesting at the BBC's decision to broadcast the world's first televised mercy killing. The programme, *Death on Request*, screened on BBC 2, showed a doctor administering a fatal injection to a 63-year-old man suffering from chronic motor neurone disease.

The Human Body, which follows the seven ages of man and includes scenes covering conception through to death, is likely to cause a similar controversy. Conception will be illustrated in strictly biological terms.

A BBC spokeswoman said that the idea of filming the "moment of death" was under consideration but emphasised that nothing had yet been decided. The series, described as a serious scientific documentary, is likely to be broadcast after 9pm. The spokeswoman said: "While it

is too early to say what is going to form the very last programme, anything we do will adhere to strict ethical guidelines. We hope to work with hospitals which conduct their own research into various stages of those seven ages themselves. There is no question of anyone appearing on a programme without giving their permission. The series itself is groundbreaking. We hope it will be informative and educational and, of course, original."

Jana Bennett, BBC head of science, said in a statement: "We have not filmed anyone's death and would not do so without the full consent of all concerned. Neither would we consider showing the moment of death without the greatest respect for the sensibilities of viewers."

Ann Winterton, Conservative MP for Congleton, one of the signatories of the earlier Commons motion, said she hoped that hospitals would refuse to work with the production team. The moment of death was essentially private and to be shared only with close family, she said.

Mrs Winterton added: "I cannot think of a word other than macabre to describe this. It is beyond belief that responsible programme-makers would wish to present this kind of material. It would be deeply upsetting for the relatives and the person dying. It is gratuitous and unnecessary."

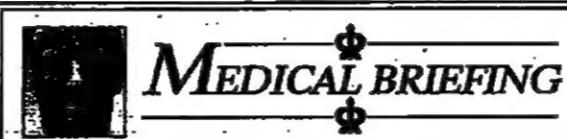
Mary Whitehouse, the founder of the National Viewers and Listeners' Association, said: "It is a subject you would have thought would never be shown on television. Death in fictional programmes is bad enough but to show it in real life, it would have to be done with the utmost delicacy."



ADRIAN BROOKS

Falling in: 102 Gurkhas were welcomed into the undermanned 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment yesterday by Lieutenant-General Hew Pike, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Land Command. The transfer is a reprieve for the Gurkhas, who faced the threat of redundancy

Why drinking and walking home can be fatal



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A CORONER returned a verdict of accidental death this week at the inquest of Kevin Ward, a 41-year-old company director from Cheddar, Somerset. Mr Ward collapsed and died after drinking excessively during a friend's birthday celebration in November.

After the drinking, Mr Ward decided to walk home on a bitterly cold night. He had not gone far when he stumbled and fell. Tired and drunk, Mr Ward went to sleep in the road.

Eventually his snoring woke a nearby householder,

but it was too late. Mr Ward died from alcohol poisoning and hypothermia.

Blood tests showed that the dead man's alcohol level was 400 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood — five times greater than the drink

driving passmark. At a blood alcohol level of 400mg per 100ml, even a hardened drinker would be difficult to rouse.

The experience has shown that a person with this amount of alcohol in their

blood, providing they were drinking at a steady rate, would probably have had about 22 drinks, when a drink is measured at a pub's standard tot of whisky, or a half a pint of beer. Mr Ward had been drinking both.

Death from the combination of hypothermia and alcohol is not common in this country but in Tsarist Russia, Mr Ward's fate would have been relatively common. At that time Russian innkeepers also acted as pawnbrokers, and would take the drinker's greatcoat as surety.

Contrary to popular belief, anyone who has been drinking chills much more rapidly than when they are sober. A drink may make a person feel warmer, but they lose their body temperature faster as the alcohol causes the blood vessels in the skin to dilate. The improved skin circulation results in a greater amount of blood being exposed to the chilling elements.

The contents of the hip flask should only be enjoyed by those who are warm, well wrapped up, and in full possession of their faculties.

MEN'S ears grow and shrink as they age, scientists have discovered. Old men have larger ears than younger ones but the latest research shows that the changes occur in seven-year cycles.

Researchers believe that the nose, the chin and the fingers could also follow the same pattern. Two Dutch scientists spotted the rhythmic changes when they compared the sizes of ears belonging to 200 British men aged between 30 and 93. The men had had their ears measured for an earlier study that showed that older men have larger ears.

Dr Jos Verhulst of the Louis Boltz Institute in Driebergen, The Netherlands, who conducted the study published in the *British Medical Journal*, said the pattern mirrored the development of the skull. Earlier research by him, to be published shortly, showed that the fusion of the plates of the skull, causing the sutures between them to fade, follows the same seven-year pattern.

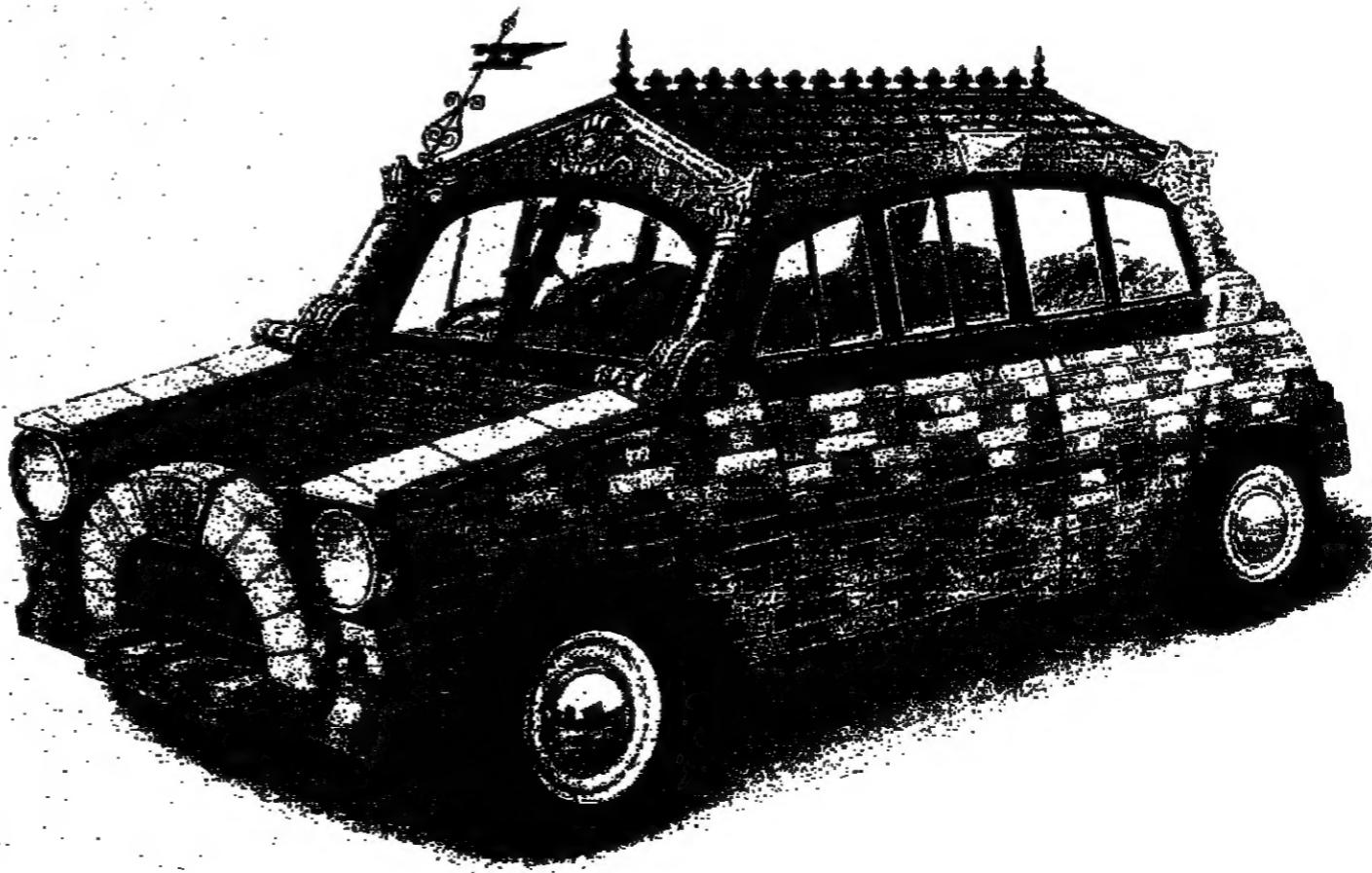
"I have no idea why it should happen this way," he said. "But we now have two major structures showing this periodicity. It suggests that other parts of the body could follow the same pattern."

The idea of a seven-year rhythm in human development goes back to ancient Greece. It was first mentioned by Pythagoras and it was later taken up by Aristotle. In the modern world it has attracted less attention but in many countries, as in Britain until the 1960s, the age of majority is 21 (three times seven).

People who regularly visit theatres, cinemas or concerts live longer than those who do not, according to Swedish researchers. They believe that cultural stimulation may boost the immune system.

Doctors report that a man needed hospital treatment after blowing up 20 balloons in an hour. Tests showed that the pressure needed to inflate them was twice that carrying a risk of lung damage.

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Briton petitions Mandela for justice over son's death

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE father of a 28-year-old Briton killed by a traffic police officer in a KwaZulu/Natal coastal resort has written to President Mandela to highlight his son's case.

The Bradley family has discovered that the traffic officer allegedly responsible has not been suspended from duty despite being charged with culpable homicide, and the officer investigating the case is said to have been threatened.

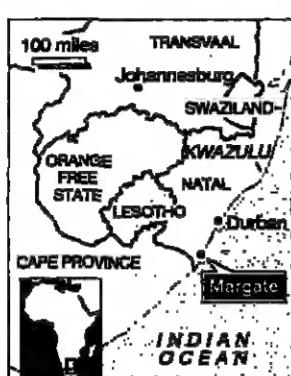
John Bradley wrote to ask President Mandela to ensure that justice is done regarding the death of his son Kevin on November 24. Mr Bradley, who flew to South Africa with his wife to identify the body, said he wanted to make higher authorities aware of the case.

Five days before his death, Kevin Bradley had returned to South Africa to make arrangements for his marriage to Antoinette La Grange. The couple, who met seven years ago while working for a hotel and casino group, had set up home in Margate on the region's southern coast and were running a casino there.

On the night of her fiancée's death Miss La Grange had received a call from the casino asking that Kevin go in to help. He was waiting at traffic lights on his motorbike when an official traffic car, travelling fast, hit a stationary car in the next lane then rebounded and hit his motorbike, catapulting him 40 metres through the air. He died about



Antoinette La Grange: fiancée of the dead man



11 hours later in hospital after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

It was later alleged that blood samples taken from the off-duty traffic policeman, Pierre du Plessis, 24, indicated

an alcohol level higher than that permitted by law. He was charged with culpable homicide but released on bail of 600 rand. Margate council, his employer since 1993, defended its decision not to suspend him on the ground that this would be tantamount to an admission of guilt.

Investigations by *The Times* have also revealed that Mr du Plessis is facing a charge of intent to cause grievous bodily harm relating to an incident in December last year when he was accused of being involved in beating up four Johannesburg students in Margate.

That case is due in court in February. The pre-trial hearing into Mr Bradley's death is scheduled for January 13.

Simon Bradley, the dead man's brother, said his father had been in contact with his MP, John Butterill (C. Bournemouth W), who had promised to take up the case with the Foreign Office.

A spokesman in President Mandela's office said that the matter would be referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs and on to other departments if necessary.

□ A man has been arrested in connection with the hijacking of two British tourists in the Transkei by a gang posing as police. The tourists were robbed and stripped at the roadside. Timothy Frost and Emma Isherwood also had their car, worth £22,000, taken.



Kevin Bradley, who died after his stationary motorbike was hit at traffic lights

Farmers trot out 3m fresh turkeys

By ELENOR SALMOND

MOST supermarkets start selling their fresh turkeys today and the most popular price, at £2.59 a kilogram, is rather more expensive than last year. Some three million birds will be on sale within the next four days, though ten million households will buy cheaper, frozen birds, despite the verdict of a recent tasting organised by *The Times*, whose panel came out firmly in favour of fresh.

Protections include:

Asda: garlic king prawns £3.49 for 300g, pork easy-carve leg joint £3.49, tiramisu (12-14 portions) £3.49 for 950g. Budgets: Scottish smoked salmon £6.99 for 400g, Cooks Town large gammon joint, smoked/unsmoked, £4.99 per kg, clementines £1.19 kg. Co-op: frozen North Atlantic prawns £2.79 for 400g, fresh topside or silverside of beef £1.78 lb, frozen roast potatoes £1.39 for 1.36 kg, fresh cream trifles £1.19 for 397g.

Founder of charity faces jail

Susan Howe, founder of the Cot Death Society, faces jail after being found guilty of stealing thousands of pounds from the society.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that Howe, 43, from Formby, Merseyside, used a concealed "welfare account" to pay donations of £36,372 into bank accounts belonging to her and her partner, Kevin Sullivan, 40. He was acquitted last week of the same charges. Howe will be sentenced on January 17.

Fiancée quizzed

Murder squad detectives were questioning the fiancée of Lee Harvey, 25, who was stabbed to death in an alleged "road rage" incident close to their home in Hereford and Worcester. Police arrested Tracie Andrews, 27, two weeks ago but she was admitted to hospital and they were unable to interview her.

Duchess mourns

The Duchess of York joined her father, Major Ronald Ferguson, and other members of her family at the funeral of her grandmother, Lady Elmhurst, at All Saints Church in Dummer, Hampshire. Lady Elmhurst, who was 88, died last week after a long illness. The Duchess read the lesson at the service.

Taxman case

David Shamoan, 66, a businessman, was cleared of providing a holiday for Michael Alcock, an Inland Revenue inspector, in return for tax favours. Two corruption charges against Mr Alcock, 47, were also dropped. He denies 11 similar charges. The case, at the Old Bailey, was adjourned until January 2.

Serb baby well

Leon Bu, the Serbian baby who has had heart surgery funded by a public appeal, is said to be "doing fine" in hospital. The four-month-old boy had a three-hour operation at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children to repair two holes in his heart. Nearly £11,000 was raised to pay for his treatment.

Lightning death

A farm worker died instantly when lightning struck his gold necklace. Paul Maroney, 20, was on a tractor trailer in West Auckland when the bolt struck in July. The tractor "jumped" and his shoes were blown off. An inquest jury at Darlington, Co Durham, returned a verdict of accidental death.

Post haste

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Award may set precedent in sport

Footballer wins £1.4m for tackle that ended career

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FOOTBALLER was awarded an estimated £250,000 damages in the High Court yesterday over an opponent's high tackle which broke his right leg and ended his career.

The award to Brian McCord, a former Stockport County player, is believed to be the first of its kind for injuries suffered on the field and could have a significant impact on all sports.

Mr Justice Ian Kennedy found that the Swansea City captain, John Cornforth, had made an error when challenging McCord for a loose ball during a game in Swansea in March 1993.

After the case Mr McCord, 28, said: "I am delighted with the judgment. I have been on income support since the accident and I was 100 per cent sure taking this action was the right thing to do. I will now be able to repay all the friends who have helped me get by and perhaps buy a few Christmas presents. But I would much rather that my career had been left intact."

The judge said that Mr Cornforth's tackle, in which he slid down on one leg with his right foot over the ball as the two players closed for a 50-50 challenge, was "an error which was inconsistent with his taking reasonable care" towards his opponent.

"But it does not follow that those who play football do not consent to the risk of injury. There are very few professional footballers who assert that they have never fallen below the standards expected of them and if they do they are not to be believed."

Mr McCord, who is studying to become a physiotherapist, was awarded an im-



McCord: career ended by clash which broke his leg

mediate interim payment of £50,000 and the balance will be decided at a hearing in the New Year. John England, his solicitor, said the judgment was a landmark because there was no system for players to obtain compensation for injuries received during games.

He said: "It is a very important judgment which will have great ramifications throughout all professional sports. I believe it is time for the sporting bodies to devise some system of compensation without redress to the court."

At a hearing last month, Mr McCord said that he assumed when he saw Mr Cornforth approaching that there would be a block tackle, when two players arrive at the ball at the same time. He added: "I didn't see my eye off the ball and I saw Mr Cornforth approach and as I made contact with the ball, his leg was resting above the ball and the next thing I knew I saw my grossly deformed right leg."

Mr McCord, from Chaddesden, Derby, said he had always wanted to be a profes-

sional footballer and had left school aged 15 to sign as an apprentice with Derby County. He played for Derby, but was transferred to Barnsley and in 1992 signed for Stockport.

He told the judge: "I don't think there has been a day gone by when I don't think about the game and I miss it tremendously."

His counsel, Jonathan Crystal, said Mr McCord was entitled to damages from Mr Cornforth and Swansea City for pain and injury and loss of income because the tackle was "extremely violent" and illegal.

Walter Williams, a policeman who was the match assessor for the Football League, said that in his view the tackle was among the worst three he had seen.

The judge said he had adopted the stance that an "ordinary, reasonable" spectator would take. He could understand the many witnesses who said Mr Cornforth was playing the man and not the ball but "that was not my conclusion", particularly having heard about his good reputation. However, he ruled that the tackle was "inconsistent" with taking reasonable care and it was one occasion when his skill "deserted him".

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said the case posed a dilemma. The PFA could ignore neither a player's rights to go to law nor the defendant being left isolated if the club's insurers refused to take responsibility.

"We have looked at an arbitration method between players to avoid going to court and at no-fault insurance schemes but neither has proved possible."



A plan of the proposed new stadium in Leazes Park. The club's existing site, right, will become an arena

Newcastle goes public with £90m stadium

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PLANS for a controversial £90 million sports complex based on Newcastle United Football Club were unveiled yesterday.

The scheme will be funded from a £160 million stock market flotation, details of which will be announced next month and which will make the Premiership club the largest publicly quoted football business after Manchester United.

Conservatives immediately attacked the plans for a 55,000-seat glass-and-sandstone stadium on greenbelt land close to the existing ground at St James's Park.

Both sides accept that the planned development of 50 acres at Castle Leazes and Leazes Park, on the edge of the city centre, will probably result in a public inquiry. Dolly Potter, chairman of Friends of

Leazes Park, said: "They are the most important pieces of open space close to the city centre, not just for people living around there but for people working nearby. If they are lost the centre of Newcastle would become a much less attractive area to live and work."

Announcing the project yesterday, Sir John Hall, Newcastle's chairman, said: "We are aware of the concerns of the objectors, but the views of our fans need to be considered too. A lot of fans cannot get into St James's Park."

Earlier this year Sir John threatened to move the club out of the city if his plans were thwarted by council planners.

The project has been conten-

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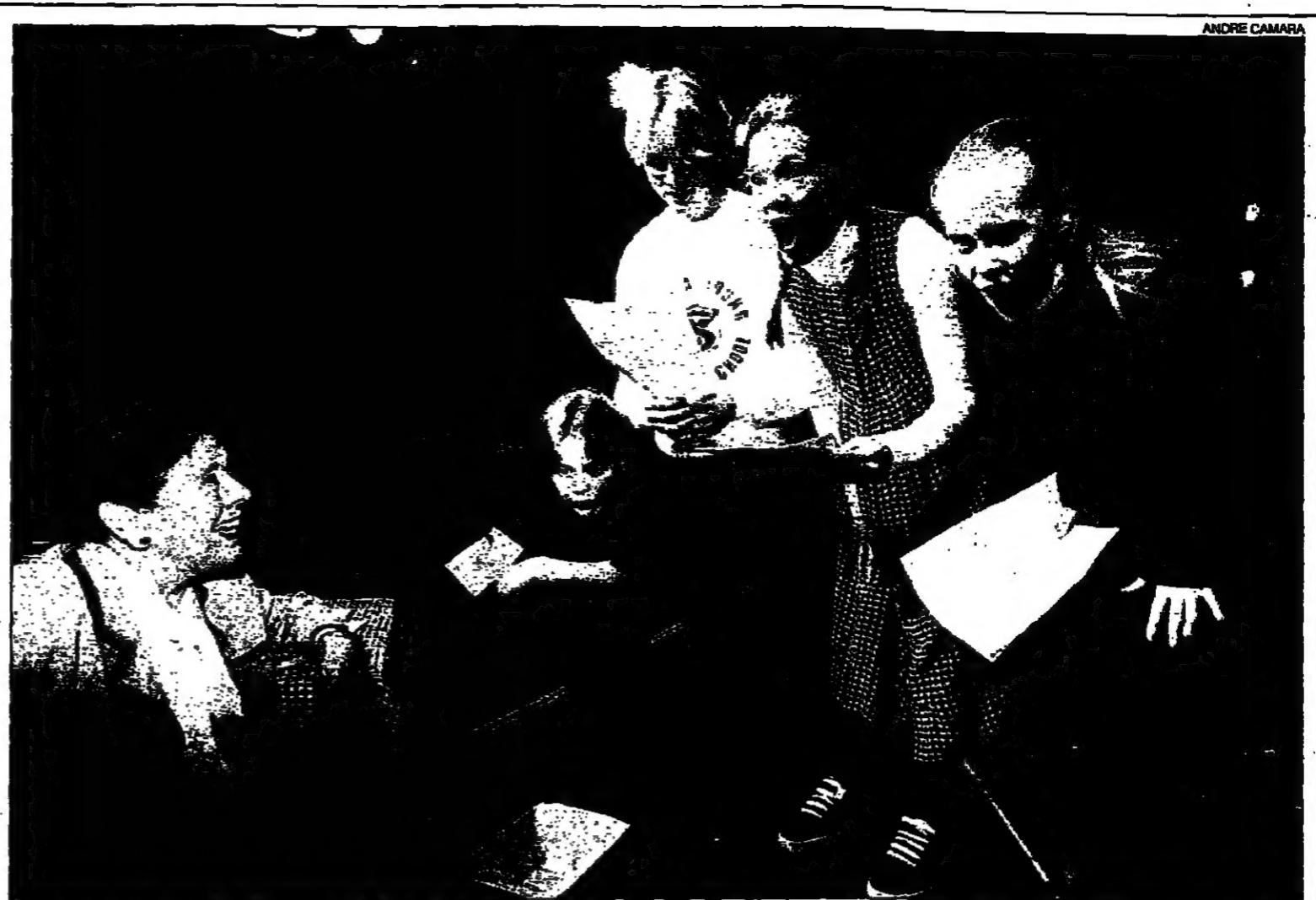
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Gillian Baverstock with Ben McCosker, John Lee, Olivia Hallinan and Vicki Taylor, who are among those who will share the roles

Five go on stage to sing Enid Blyton's praises

BY ALAN HAMILTON

GOSH, everybody, look! A secret passage at the back of a North London pub leading to an audition - how exciting! Though regarded as politically incorrect by some, Enid Blyton's Famous Five are alive and well and about to go on a national tour in a musical.

Yesterday Dan Crawford, the director, made his selection from nearly 800 young hopefuls for the parts of Julian the leader, George the tomboy, the irrepressible Dick and the sweetly feminine Anne. Timmy,

the fifth member of the gang, will be played by Ben, a border collie, with two underdogs in case he falls sick.

According to Crawford, the continuing appeal of stories regarded by many as outdated and a bad influence - how exciting! Though regarded as politically incorrect by some, Enid Blyton's Famous Five are alive and well and about to go on a national tour in a musical.

The successful auditioners agreed.

John Lee, an old trooper of 14 who appeared in the title role of Oliver at the London Palladium and who is cast as Julian, thought the archaic

language, with its goshes, spiffings and lashings of ginger beer, helped to establish an atmosphere of adventure.

Olivia Hallinan, 12, who has appeared twice in ITV's *The Bill* and will play Anne, said: "Children should talk like that all the time, although when I do it my classmates at school think I'm a snob."

Gillian Baverstock, Blyton's elder daughter, has given the project her enthusiastic permission. "I am delighted; no one had ever thought of turning them into a musical before," she said. "Because the stories have few historical or geo-

graphical pointers, they have a universal and lasting appeal."

She dismisses reports, many originating from her younger sister, that Blyton was a difficult mother who disliked children. "I had an excellent relationship with her throughout her life. I do not agree with my sister's analysis of our childhood."

Producers of *The Famous Five*, which opens in Leeds in February, were surprised to find that at least eight out of ten of those auditioned were already Blyton fans. To be weaned on Noddy, it appears, is to be hooked for life.

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Governors violated inmates' freedom of speech by trying to stop them protesting their innocence

Judge backs prisoners over interviews with media

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE ruled yesterday that restrictions on two murderers' access to the media were unlawful.

Mr Justice Latham allowed a challenge by the men, who contest their convictions, against rules on conversations with reporters. In a written judgment at the High Court, he said that a restriction stopping an inmate talking to a visiting journalist unless the writer undertook not to use material obtained was a curb on the right to free speech.

The judge overturned a decision by the former governor of Full Sutton top security jail near York that stopped the men receiving visits from journalists unless such an undertaking was given.

The judge said that the ban was not, on the evidence, "justified as the minimum interference with the right of free speech". Mr Justice Latham said that an appropriate undertaking could be devised to restrict topics of conversation during prison visits.

Ian Simms, convicted of murder in

1989, and Michael O'Brien, convicted of murder and robbery in 1988, had challenged the ban made under prison service standing orders. Simms, who failed in an appeal in 1990, had begun corresponding with Bob Woffinden, a journalist interested in miscarriages of justice.

He began visiting Simms to discuss his case and the two men became friends. But after a report in a national newspaper, the mother of Helen McCourt, the murder victim, became distressed at the publicity, the judge said.

The governor at Full Sutton then required an undertaking from Mr Woffinden that he would no longer use material obtained during the visits for professional purposes. The governor at Long Lartin prison in Hereford and Worcester, where Simms is now an inmate, had confirmed that he required the same undertaking before visits would be allowed.

Mr Justice Latham said that in the second case O'Brien also protested his innocence and had written to many people and organisations to try to

interest them in his case. Karen Voisey, a journalist, visited him several times at Long Lartin, but in December 1995 she was asked to sign an undertaking not to use the visit for professional purposes. She refused and was turned away.

The Home Office said the undertakings required from the journalists were a result of "the normal application" of prison service standing orders on communications and there was no significant interference with the prisoners' right of free speech.

The judge said one of the reasons given for the ban was the prison service's responsibility for preventing the communication by a prisoner of material which might cause further distress to the families of the victims of crime, or the victims themselves. They were also concerned to restrict statements "likely to outrage the public at large".

The judge said in his 25-page ruling that: "There is no doubt that restrictions on visits are necessary for the proper regulation and management of prisons and for the treatment, dis-

pense and control of inmates." But the courts had established that if the civil rights of an inmate were interfered with, then the law required it should be only minimum interference.

Michael Howard was given leave to appeal against the ruling, which the judge said concerned an important issue.

A prison service spokeswoman said it was considering the judgment.

Mr Woffinden, author of a book,

Miscarriages of Justice, described the ruling as "excellent — very good news for press freedom".

He added: "A lot of prisoners who have pressing concerns will now be able to inform the press about what those concerns are. It also means we will be able to be more responsive because we will be able to go and talk to all the people we need to talk to."

"A sense of justice and a sense of normality has been returned. The whole thing was totally illogical. The Home Office says prisoners can write to journalists but not talk to us in person. It's much more sensible for us to meet them in person and assess their bona fides for ourselves."

DIY LITIGANTS OVERWHELM APPEAL COURT

A SHARP rise in the number of people resorting to law without the help of lawyers is causing acute problems for the Court of Appeal, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, said yesterday.

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Miscarriages of Justice, described the ruling as "excellent — very good news for press freedom".

He added: "A lot of prisoners who have pressing concerns will now be able to inform the press about what those concerns are. It also means we will be able to be more responsive because we will be able to go and talk to all the people we need to talk to."

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Lord Woolf: more cases

record workload, which is

being reduced by lords

judges working overtime

and special "crash courts".

Lord Woolf notes: "The

number of outstanding ap-

plications (2,795 compared

with 1,652 in 1991-92) cannot be allowed to continue." In 70 per cent of cases, there is a 14-month wait before appeals are heard.

Even though judges had disposed of 2,590 applications this year, compared with 1,448 in 1991-92, there were still 1,384 applications outstanding at the end of this year.

To tackle the problem, the Bar has set up a *pro bono* unit where barristers offer their services free to people with certain kinds of case and the Lord Chancellor's Department has provided extra funding for the Citizens Advice Bureau within the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand.

Letters, page 17

Injustice commission lacks members with relevant experience

THE new body set up to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice has attracted criticism for having virtually no members with experience in this area.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission, which will take over the Home Secretary's task of deciding which cases are to be referred to the Court of Appeal, will be established on New Year's Day and will take on casework from the end of March. Although the 14-

strong commission contains a senior police officer and three lawyers with experience of prosecuting, there are no members with knowledge of criminal defence work.

The commission includes

Fiona King, a former assistant chief crown prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS); David Kyle, chief crown prosecutor in the central casework unit at the CPS; and John Knox, formerly a deputy director at the Serious

Fraud Office. Baden Skitt, Assistant Commissioner with the Metropolitan Police and former Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, is also a member.

Other lawyers who have

been chosen include Laurence Elks, legal consultant with the City law firm Nabarro Nathanson and previously a partner there for nine years acting in acquisitions and joint ventures; and Professor Leon-

ard Leigh, professor of criminal law at the London School of Economics.

Only Dr James MacKeith, a consultant forensic psychiatrist, has experience of miscarriage cases.

John Wadham, general secretary of the civil rights group Liberty, said yesterday: "We are disappointed with the list because we would have expected at least a minority of people to have some knowledge and experience of dealing

with miscarriage-of-justice cases."

He said there should have been a solicitor or barrister with experience of a miscarriage of justice case, or a campaigner, or "even someone who was wrongly convicted". He added: "You need to be really determined to try to unpick what went wrong in these cases and, without that, the commission won't succeed in its job. But I am happy to be proved wrong."

Lloyds Syndicate Loss Reviews; Anthony Foster, former chief executive of ICI Chlorochemicals, and Barry Capon, recently retired chief executive of Norfolk County Council.

The commission will be chaired by Sir Frederick Crawford, a former vice-chancellor of Aston University. His appointment provoked criticism from lawyers earlier this year when it was discovered that he was high-ranking Freemason.



At risk: the dormouse

Survival training equips dormice to face the wild

THE dormouse is disappearing so rapidly that soon the only survivor will be Lewis Carroll's comatose guest at the Mad Hatter's tea party. Immortalised in *Alice in Wonderland*, the dormouse is fast becoming a stranger in its native habitat (Daniel McGroarty writes).

It has already vanished from seven northern and eastern counties of England and is hard to find elsewhere as its woodland habitat is destroyed. The dormouse seldom receives the attention given to more exotic species but Sue Fisher, head of conservation at the charity Tusk Force, said: "Extinction is no respecter of size and if we lecture other countries about their wildlife we have a duty to protect our native species."

In 1995 the charity began a programme of captive breeding in Devon. Before the dormice can be released into the wild they need to learn survival skills. At a "halfway house" in Winchester, in a semi-natural environment, the dormice learn how to forage and avoid predators.

In the Craggivine Forest at Dunkeld in Scotland, Tusk Force is helping to fund a project to protect the red squirrel, which was so plentiful at the start of this century that it was viewed as a pest. Today, with only one red squirrel for every fifteen grey,

there is a real possibility of extinction. The grey squirrel, which arrived from America at the end of last century, is tougher than its red cousin. Red squirrels love ripe hazelnuts but grey squirrels eat them before they are mature, leaving the reds to starve.

Tusk Force is also keen to protect the Scottish wildcat, which once thrived throughout Britain. Today it is a rarity even in its last strong-hold in the Highlands. Scientists say they have no idea how many wildcats remain and Tusk Force is working with the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University to study its habitat and rescue it from the shadow of extinction.

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Bardot denies race hate in attack on Muslim sheep rite

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

BRIGITTE BARDOT took a leading role in a Paris courtroom yesterday to answer allegations that in a newspaper article, in which she claimed France was being overrun by sheep-slaughtering Muslims, was an incitement to racial hatred.

In an opinion piece for *Le Figaro* in April, the cinematic sex-kitten-turned-animal rights campaigner attacked the Muslim ritual of sheep slaughter during the feast of Eid al-Kebir. France, she said, was being swamped with foreigners. The two principal

anti-racist groups in France filed a lawsuit accusing her of inciting racism against Muslims. She faces fines of Fr300,000 (£37,000) and up to a year in prison if convicted.

Mme Bardot's lawyer said that she wanted to make a personal appearance to explain her views, and planned to call three witnesses: an animal film-maker, a vet and an animal welfare official.

The 62-year-old animal rights activist has often voiced right-wing views and in newly published memoirs she de-

scribed Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme-right National Front, as a charming and cultivated man. M Le Pen recently declared racial inequality "a fact", prompting Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to accuse him of being "deeply, viscerally racist".

In her article Mme Bardot described herself as "a Frenchwoman of ancient stock" and threatened to leave France because it tolerates the Muslim sheep-killing ritual, which she described in graphic, almost hysterical, terms. "Tens of thousands of poor beasts have their throats slit... while children splashied with blood bathe in this terrible mess of gore squirting from badly-cut jugulars," wrote Mme Bardot, who quit acting in 1972.

"My country, France, my homeland... is again being invaded by this foreign, especially Muslim, overpopulation... we are forced to submit to this Muslim overflow against our will."

The French Movement Against Racism described the article as a "genuine incitement to racial hatred". It said:

"We must ask whether this woman animal defender is ill,

not with mad cow disease, but with the lethal virus of racism."

Rafsanjani bolsters ties with Turkey

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT Rafsanjani of Iran was greeted with full military honours on his arrival in Turkey yesterday, where he began top-level talks on the construction of a \$23 billion (£14 billion) gas pipeline the two countries are to build in defiance of US pressure.

In an important first visit to a Nazi neighbour that breaks Iran's isolation, Hojatollah Rafsanjani underlined Iran's growing ties with the Islamic Government of Necmettin Erbakan. President Demirel said important trade and economic results would be achieved during the four days.

Mr Erbakan visited Iran during his first overseas trip after taking office, signing the pipeline deal days after President Clinton announced a law imposing sanctions on any country investing more than \$40 million a year in the energy industries of Iran or Libya.

The deal's first stage was initiated last week with the announcement of a tender to construct a 190-mile stretch from the Iranian border to the Turkish town of Ezurum.

However there are lingering tensions between Ankara and Tehran over Turkey's renewed \$600 million military agreement with Israel concerning the modernisation of Turkish F4 fighter-bombers.

The deal's first stage was initiated last week with the announcement of a tender to construct a 190-mile stretch from the Iranian border to the Turkish town of Ezurum.

A CYPRIOT housewife expecting a record 11 babies after fertility treatment has been given an 80 per cent chance of saving four of them. Doctors planned to terminate three embryos yesterday and said four more would be aborted over the next two weeks.

"If there was any way I could have kept them all, I would have loved to," said Zoë Efstratiou, 23. Her doctor, Andreas Pat-



Zoë Efstratiou and her husband, Demetris. They agreed to abort some of the foetuses to give the others a better chance

Fertility treatment gave wife 11 embryos

FROM MICHAEL THEODOTOU
IN NICOSIA

salides, insisted there was no chance all could survive. "Now there is a 75 to 80 per cent chance of survival for three or four of them and this will increase after the twenty-fifth week of pregnancy," he said.

There is a possibility that Mrs Efstratiou, who is ten weeks pregnant, and her husband, Demetris, 24, an accountant, could be expecting even more babies. "Because so many are cramped into such a small place it is difficult to determine the exact number. There is a possibility we may find some

more. But already this is the first documented case worldwide of so many multiple embryos," said Dr Patsalides.

In October a British woman, Mandy Allwood, 32, who was pregnant with eight foetuses after fertility treatment, lost all of them in less than 48 hours. The Cypriot couple had sought advice from her gynaecologist, Dr Kypros Nicolaides, a Cypriot who originally comes from their home town of Paphos.

The couple already have a two-year-old girl, again after fertility treatment.

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS



Bardot with her husband, Bernard d'Ormeau, yesterday

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

Halifax spending a little Xtra £413m on flotation

By ANNE ASHWORTH
AND CAROLINE MERRILL

THE Halifax Building Society has revealed that its metamorphosis into the 30th biggest bank in the world will cost £413 million — £46 for every borrower and saver.

The total is made up of two elements: £260 million of costs associated with the Leeds Building Society merger and £153 million in conversion expenses, including fees to lawyers and merchant bankers.

The society will make its stock market debut next June in a £10 billion conversion. Nine million investing and borrowing members will receive an average payout of £1,000 in free Halifax shares.

More than half of the conversion expenses, some £75 million, will be spent on communicating with these members. Each mailing costs around £5 million but the distribution of voting packs containing transfer documents and voting papers early next month will be a

£10-£20 million operation. It will involve 13 mailing houses and eight printing companies, approximately 60 per cent of the printing capacity of the UK, while the Post Office will lay on 60 Royal Mail lorries to work non-stop for eight days.

The transfer document giving full details of the conversion, runs to some 150 pages. To spare a few trees, the Halifax sought Building Societies Commission approval to produce an abbreviated version but was refused.

Gary Marsh, assistant general manager of the Halifax, explained that the other half of the £153 million in conversion expenses would be spent on advertising, reprinting leaflets and removing the words "building society" from its signs. He would not disclose payments to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advising on the conversion. But a senior executive of another firm speculated that the bill would be £10-£20 million, with the bank offering its services at reduced

cost in the hope of securing profitable work from the Halifax after flotation. Linklaters & Paines, the City lawyers acting for the Halifax, charges about £500 an hour.

Reorganisation and restructuring accounted for the bulk of the £260 million Leeds merger total.

Although some money is being spent on opening, closing and enlarging branches, the information technology outlay has been greater as the Halifax works to integrate its largely IBM-based

system and the Leeds's mainly Unisys system, a process that has been a struggle at times.

The interim accounts include an exceptional provision of £51.5 million for losses on the disposal of computer equipment. The conversion cost figures were released yesterday with interim accounts for the Halifax showing profits before tax of £7.2 million for the nine months to October 31. The accounts have been specially prepared for inclusion in the transfer document.

Delay on payout to Lloyd's names

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London has admitted that it has run into serious delays in paying out under its ambitious recovery plan.

It has also admitted that about 4,000 names will have to pay more to settle their dues at Lloyd's, because of adverse movements on the currency exchanges. It denied that the delays threaten a knock-on effect in the insurance market.

Ron Sandler, chief executive, has written to names to apologise for setbacks to the payment timetable, and saying that "no effort is being spared" to bring the process back on track. In his letter, Mr Sandler admits that it had not been possible to settle with members by mid-December as intended.

Mr Sandler does not give a reason for the delay, other than referring in general terms to the "complex" nature of the accounting programmes involved. He adds: "I feel sure that you will understand our concern to ensure that these processes are followed diligently and, with the benefit of hindsight, perhaps our timetable was over optimistic."

Mr Sandler says the delays are not linked to attempts to collect funds from refusenik names. Lloyd's set out to recover nearly £500 million from 1,850 names in the UK, US and Canada, but the amount has fallen as members have requested talks. A test case involving debt recoveries comes in London today.

The admissions are an embarrassment to Lloyd's, which has been quick to emphasise the importance of timetables when seeking money from members. It insists, however, that the Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) plan remains on course. Some 8,200 out of 12,000 names eligible to receive a rebate from Lloyd's under the settlement offer

have now been paid. Lloyd's has paid about £260 million out of an expected distributable surplus of more than £400 million.

Lloyd's would not comment yesterday on reports of widespread computer problems linked to R&R payments. Some names are reported to have received £10,000 more than they were owed, while others have received £10,000 less.

Lloyd's conceded that the rise in value of the pound against the dollar would result in increased "finality" payments for names on syndicates that have written business in dollar terms. About 4,000 names out of 34,000 worldwide are thought to be affected. It will not affect accepting names who have already paid.

Lloyd's would not elaborate on whether steps had been taken to hedge against the risk of currency movements. It said the potential for increased payments had been spelt out in the settlement offer document. A spokesman confirmed that a number of names who had accepted and owe money to Lloyd's had yet to settle their dues. They had been granted time to settle their affairs. According to some reports, as many as 1,700 names are involved.

It seems inevitable that the delays will spill over into the new year. There are fears in some quarters that this threatens a knock-on effect for large insurance brokers who could face a situation where their tax liabilities exceed their net assets.

Mr Sandler wrote to names early last month, flagging "slight" delays in the R&R timetable. The intention was to complete the distribution process "as far as possible" by the end of the year.



Dunn & Co back in hands of receiver

By JASON NISSL

DUNN & CO, the menswear retailer specialising in tweed and tweed, has collapsed for the second time in six years.

KPMG was appointed yesterday as receiver to Dunn, which employs 429 staff and has 130 stores, mostly in Wales and the South West of England.

The company was only created in June 1994 when a team of managers from Yorkshire bought the Dunn name, along with 40 of its stores, and merged it with their own group, Hodge. It has struggled as its customers, though loyal, are a small and declining group of the population.

Previously the retailer, which was created in 1888, had been liquidated by its owners, the Dunn pension fund, and the shops not sold to Hodge were put into a property company.

DENISE KINGSMILL, above, the lawyer who once represented George Walker, is to be a deputy chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Jon Ashworth writes). Mrs Kingsmill, 49, will be one of three deputies at the MMC, and the first woman to hold the post, when she starts in the £68,000-a-year job next September.

She will work with Graham Corbett, 62, former chief financial officer of

Lawyer taking monopolies job

Bruno tunnel, who joins the MMC in May. A former senior partner in Peat Marwick in Paris, Mr Corbett will be paid £51,000 for working three days a week. Mrs

Kingsmill will still act as a consultant to Denton Hall, the City law firm. Born in New Zealand, and raised in Wales, she has worked in the law since 1979, specialising in industrial relations and corporate governance. As a partner in DJ Freeman, she acted for Mr Walker after his ousting by Brent Walker's bankers in 1991. She said the MMC role "comes right to the heart of business".

MG investors await compensation news

By ROBERT MILLER

MORE than 90,000 investors in Morgan Grenfell, owned by Deutsche Bank of Germany, more than £200 million. Investors should receive their cheques before Easter, next year.

The exercise is likely to cost Morgan Grenfell, owned by Deutsche Bank of Germany, more than £200 million. Investors should receive their cheques before Easter, next year.

Intra, the watchdog for fund managers, is looking at the use of investors' money to buy shares in breach of City rules. Morgan Grenfell faces a hefty fine, which could top the previous record of £750,000 levied on Ivesco over the Maxwell affair. Certain senior executives in charge of Mr Young also face fines and possible bans from working in the City for a period.

Pemberton, page 23

GKN faces \$400m suit over US subsidiary

By OLIVER AUGUST

GKN, the engineering and defence group, faces a damages bill of about \$400 million after a US exhaust subsidiary lost a class action suit.

The 1996 accounts will be hit by an appropriate provision pending further clarification of the complicated judgment, the group said. It called the judgment a setback in its financial position but emphasised that the agreed dividend for 1996 will not be affected.

A GKN statement said: "We are extremely surprised at the outcome which we believe to be wholly unreasonable and will appeal following delivery of the judgment."

The judgment in the case will not be issued until post-verdict issues and procedures have been resolved and this could take some weeks. The issues still to be determined could result in a substantial modification of the award."

At face value the aggregate amount

awarded by a North Carolina court is \$398 million. It is possible that damages could be reduced on judgment or increased to a maximum of \$554 million. Some parts of the claim are covered by the North Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act which allows for trebling of penalties.

The case concerns alleged breaches

of contract and other claims about advertising activities brought by franchisees of the Meineke Discount Muffler Shops.

The action was also brought against

New Horizons, Meineke's subsidiary,

GKN Parts Industries, its immediate

parent company; GKN, its ultimate

parent; and three US resident offices of

Meineke.

GKN shares fell sharply after the

company's announcement, closing at

£10.09%, down from £10.45.

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Asda keeps it simple ... and very profitable

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ARCHIE NORMAN, chairman of Asda, said yesterday that the supermarket group will stick to the "simple business of shopkeeping" rather than follow its rivals into financial services and loyalty cards.

Mr Norman, who is also the Conservative Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Tunbridge Wells, said: "Everyone in the industry is looking for other things to do on the periphery. I do not rule them out, but real success is concentrating on fresh food, value for money and service." Asda is continuing to test a loyalty card in 20 stores, but has no immediate plans to introduce it nationwide because of the high cost, he said. All of Asda's main rivals — Tesco, J Sainsbury and Safeway — have their own nationwide loyalty card schemes and offer a range of financial services.

Mr Norman was speaking as he revealed profits for the six months to

November 9 up 15.8 per cent, to £160 million. Like-for-like sales were 10.2 per cent ahead, by the far the best in the sector. Earnings per share were 15.7 per cent higher at 4.06p, and the interim dividend was raised 12.5 per cent to 8.8p. It is payable on April 2.

Allan Leighton, who has taken over as chief executive from Mr Norman, said the company is putting more emphasis on its clothing, which is sold under the George brand name. Clothing sales were 35 per cent ahead, with children's wear sales up 40 per cent and women's outerwear up 50 per cent. The other area set for expansion within the stores is fresh foods, which had 15 per cent higher sales. Asda opened two stores in the first half, will open a further seven this financial year and plans seven large stores per year for the next three years.

At face value the aggregate amount

awarded by a North Carolina court is \$398 million. It is possible that damages could be reduced on judgment or increased to a maximum of \$554 million. Some parts of the claim are covered by the North Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act which allows for trebling of penalties.

The case concerns alleged breaches

of contract and other claims about advertising activities brought by franchisees of the Meineke Discount Muffler Shops.

The action was also brought against

New Horizons, Meineke's subsidiary,

GKN Parts Industries, its immediate

parent company; GKN, its ultimate

parent; and three US resident offices of

Meineke.

GKN shares fell sharply after the

company's announcement, closing at

£10.09%, down from £10.45.

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The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Terms relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief depends on the circumstances of the investor. We will not be offering any advice as to the suitability of the PEPs we are marketing. PEPs are not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubt whether an investment is suitable for you, you should obtain expert advice.

Waterford buys 9% stake in Rosenthal

FROM EILEEN McCABE
IN DUBLIN

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the crystal and china company, put an end to months of speculation yesterday when it confirmed that it is taking a 9.1 per cent stake in Rosenthal, the German porcelain group.

Under the deal Waterford Wedgwood, which is chaired by Tony O'Reilly, will acquire 60,000 new Rosenthal shares at or close to the prevailing market price.

The Irish company said that it also has options to acquire a further 15 per cent of Rosenthal over the next four years.

Waterford Wedgwood declined to put a value on its stake, but market analysts in Dublin said that based on Rosenthal's current share price, the 9.1 per cent stake is worth around £12.5 million.

Although the two companies operate in the luxury goods sector, their products are not in direct competition and they already have distribution agreements in several markets.

As well as strengthening those marketing ties, the new alliance will also give them scope to collaborate on manufacturing.

Earlier this year Rosenthal adopted a restructuring programme in an effort to cut costs after it recorded losses of more than £17 million in 1995. In contrast, Waterford Wedgwood is expected to report operating profits of around £13.9 million for 1996.

Dr O'Reilly said yesterday that he was confident that the new alliance would help to restore the German group to profitability.



Raj Bagri, left, the chairman of the LME, and David King, its chief executive, yesterday after the SIB announced the results of its review.

Firms face tighter regulation and control over metal trades

BY ROBERT MILLER

FIRMS who trade on the London Metal Exchange (LME) will be subject to tightened and more transparent disciplinary and regulatory procedures, the City's chief watchdog said yesterday.

Unveiling the results of a six-month review of the LME after the \$2.8 billion Sumitomo copper scandal, the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) outlined a seven-point plan "to enhance standards of market integrity delivered by the LME".

Sumitomo announced in June that it had lost billions of dollars on the world's copper markets and blamed its former chief trader Yasuo Hamanaka, known as Mr 5

Percent for the portion of the world's copper market he accounted for. At the request of Raj Bagri and David King, respectively, chairman and chief executive of the LME, the SIB launched its review.

The SIB, headed by Sir Andrew Large, said that it wanted "an urgent and thorough review by the LME of its governance, so that it is clear that conflicts of interest are avoided and that it is run in the interests of the full range of its users and members".

The chief City watchdog is aware that to many outsiders, and even inside regulatory circles, the perception of the LME is that it does not appear to have enough inde-

pendent voices on its 10-strong board of directors or on the exchange's executive.

The SIB said that it wanted "an increase in the role, authority and resources of the LME Executive, to enable it better to meet the challenges of running and regulating a successful world market".

Last year the 120-year old LME, which has grown by 700 per cent in the past eight years, traded more than \$2.5 trillion worth of metals — chiefly copper, but also aluminium, zinc, lead, tin and nickel. More than 90 per cent of the world's copper is traded through the London exchange.

On the discipline and enforcement aspect of the LME's work the SIB says we recom-

mend that in future it [the LME] establishes and enforces a policy of pursuing disciplinary action where rule breaches are identified".

The LME welcomed the review, although Mr Bagri said: "You can never stop people going berserk, being greedy or just plain foolish."

Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary, said: "Self-regulation failed in the Sumitomo case. The LME must now make urgent changes if it is to ensure its future as a recognised investment exchange. However, the LME was not responsible for most of the scandal."

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Gallaher to close factory

ALMOST 1,000 jobs are to be lost with the closure of Gallaher's cigarette factory at Hyde in Manchester, it was announced yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

The company is to concentrate UK production at a single site in Northern Ireland, where an additional 300 jobs will be created over the next three to four years.

The restructuring will give rise to a £70 million charge. In addition, £40 million is to be invested in Northern Ireland to install high-speed machinery.

Gallaher closed a factory in Belfast in 1988 and another at Port Talbot, South Wales, in 1994. It has cut its distribution branches from eight to one since 1991.

Gallaher is expected to be demerged from American Brands, its parent company, in mid-1997, when it will seek a stock market listing in London.

Rail link builders prepare for float

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A £1 billion stock market flotation to finance the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Britain's biggest mainland civil engineering project since the war, will go ahead within the next 18 months, the builders of the high-speed route declared yesterday.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), the consortium including Virgin Group and National Express that was chosen by the Government to build the 68-mile link from north London to the Channel Tunnel, said that the rest of the money would be raised from bond issues and bank debt.

Construction costs are estimated at £2.85 billion, at

DENZIL HENEAGHAN

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IBC wins £180m deal for new Euro van

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

BRITISH workers have beaten international competition to win an £180 million deal to build a new van for Europe.

The investment is worth an extra 900 jobs for the IBC plant at Luton, Bedfordshire.

IBC bid for the deal against competition from Renault plants in France and Opel companies in Germany, which belong to the same General Motors group as IBC, part of Vauxhall Motors.

The announcement came as national figures showed car and commercial vehicle output from British manufacturers up in November by 2.28 per cent at £5.493. The figures masked a slump at home and a boom abroad: car production for export was ahead 19.24 per cent last month but shipments overseas of commercial vehicles jumped 123 per cent.

The co-operative deal means Renault will provide 2.5 to 3.5 tonne vans — badged separately as the Renault Trafic and Vauxhall Arena — until assembly lines at Luton are ready to take the new vehicle at the turn of the century.

Nick Reilly, Vauxhall chairman, said: "This agreement will allow Vauxhall to fully compete in the most buoyant sector of the UK van market. It is also of the utmost significance to the long-term future of our IBC plant at Luton as it will substantially increase the company's role as a European vehicle supplier."

Mystery Arizona fan buys a stake in Chelsea

Chairman scores on options

BY JASON NESTE

KEN BATES, chairman of Chelsea Village, which owns Chelsea football club, yesterday made a £575,000 profit on a deal to sell a 5.8 per cent stake in the group to a mystery investor, believed to be from Arizona, without informing his company secretary of the new shareholder's identity.

Haivering, a company controlled by a Channel Island trust, acquired an option to subscribe for a 5.8 per cent stake in the company given to Mr Bates earlier this year. Haivering immediately exercised the option, paying £45 million for the shares which last night were valued at £8.5 million. When asked who Haivering was, Alan Shaw, Chelsea's company secretary

said: "I don't know. We have not served a 212 notice." This is a requirement for an investor to disclose the beneficial owners of its shares under Section 212 of the Companies Act. Mr Shaw added that he could not ask Mr Bates who the new shareholder was, saying, "The chairman's gone away and is uncontactable."

Inquiries revealed the investor is a private individual, living in Arizona, who is a keen fan of English football. No-one close to the club said they knew this person's name.

The estate of Matthew Harding, the Chelsea deputy chairman who died in the autumn, holds an identical option and it is expected that, after the publication of his will this week, this option will be exercised in the next few days. These

moves will bring in £9 million of finance, allowing the club to complete the current stage of its development programme involving flats and a hotel behind the south stand.

Chelsea also moved to deal with the identity of Rysaffe, a Hong Kong company that is its 36.3 per cent shareholder. It said it was a blind trust in which Mr Bates had no interest and the shares are now to be administered by a management company run by Patrick Murin, an accountant from Guernsey who is a non-executive director of Chelsea.

■ Newcastle United confirmed its intention to float on the stock market. Full details will be published in January, with United expected to be valued at over £150 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Battle for Northern nearing its finale

THE bitter fight for control of Northern Electric ends at lunchtime today. The signs indicate a knife-edge battle until the conclusion between Northern and CE Electric, the American group mounting a £782 million hostile bid, and the takeover may be decided by a last-minute consensus from institutions. It is likely that a range of institutions will consult each other on what offers the better value and the decision could end up a 60/40 split, either way. Schroders and BZW, Northern's advisers, yesterday continued to inflame CE Electric by buying Northern shares in the market. They bought 100,000 more shares, adding 0.1 per cent to a 2.3 per cent stake purchased the previous day.

Several large institutions — controlling about 15 per cent of Northern's shares — have pledged public support for the company's rejection of the £650-a-share bid as too low, while small shareholders, controlling about 19 per cent of Northern's equity, are thought to be largely loyal. CE Electric has acceptances for more than 4 per cent of the shares and owns 29 per cent, which it bought in the market.

Mortgage fraud curb

THE Government has brought in new legislation aimed at curbing mortgage fraud. The new law will now mean that it is illegal to obtain a money transfer by deception, or to retain credits from dishonest sources. The new legislation means that it will be possible to prosecute in cases of fraud which involve the electronic transfer of funds between accounts or a transfer using a cheque. Any such transfers might include mortgages, advances, loans or grants.

Optimism for Laporte

SHARES of Laporte, the chemicals company that suffered a 50 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits, rose 27p to 661.5p after reporting better news on second-half trading. It said: "The international spread in our business together with the strong market and technology positions in specialist continue to provide the base from which solid progress will be achieved for the year as a whole." Sterling's strength will have little effect on 1996 results, although had the current exchange rate prevailed for the whole year an extra £6 million would have been lost.

Bardon lifts stake

BARDON GROUP increased its shareholding in Bruntcliffe Aggregates, the rival building materials group, to 22.7 per cent, after exercising options to purchase shares from two former directors of Bruntcliffe and Mineral & General Investments, a Jersey trust. Bardon already has convertible loan stock that could be swapped for another 5.05 per cent of Bruntcliffe. Close watchers of the situation expect that an offer for the rest of Bruntcliffe could take place in the new year.

Tring in the red

LITIGATION cost Tring International, the budget music company that has been in dispute with K-tel over alleged copyright violations, £400,000 and helped to push it £2.4 million into the red (£1.44 million profit) in the six months to September 30. There is no interim dividend. The loss is partly because of poor trading in the summer, but also includes £2.6 million exceptional charges. The dispute with K-tel has been settled. Philip Keane is to step down at the end of January as Tring's finance director.

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CSX raises Conrail bid

CSX, the US transport conglomerate, has raised its bid for Conrail in a further effort to defeat rival Norfolk Southern. Conrail shareholders would receive an extra \$10 per share in convertible preferred shares as part of the portion of CSX's offer covered by shares. The offer is 60 per cent shares and 40 per cent cash. The increase raises the total value of the \$8.5 billion offer by \$70 million. Management is recommending acceptance, even though Norfolk Southern is offering more in an all-cash offer, worth \$10 billion or \$110 per share.

Acatos profits steady

ACATOS & HUTCHESON, the edible oils and fats manufacturing group, reported a modest rise in pre-tax profits to £7.7 million for the year ending September 29, from £7.6 million in the previous year. Operating profits were lifted to £9.1 million from £6.7 million, before exceptional items, but the group's turnover was down to £282 million from £294 million. Earnings per share rose to 14.6p from 12.2p. The total dividend is raised to 10p from 9p with a 6.5p final due on April 7.

Henri Wintermans sold

BAT Industries has sold the Henri Wintermans Cigar Group to Denmark's Skandinavisk Tobakskompani for £55 million, creating one of Europe's largest manufacturers of cigars. BAT said the sale would result in a small pre-tax profit. Existing

Doubts over copper debacle Winners and losers in supermarket wars Two questions for Berisford shareholders

HOW could a company lose nearly \$3 billion through the activities of just one employee? Even Nick Lesson needed a bit of help. Easy: just ask Sumitomo Corporation. The Japanese trading conglomerate has steadfastly insisted that solo fraudulent trading activities of Yasuo Hamanaka, its former star copper trader, were responsible for the corporation's losses.

That explanation is hardly credible when you consider the facts as we now know them and as outlined again by the Securities and Investments Board.

In 1991 senior officials from the London Metal Exchange (LME) and the SIB interviewed Mr Hamanaka in the UK, together with a senior Sumitomo executive, after they learnt that the Japanese copper dealer had asked another London trader for a backdated invoice of a fictitious trade worth \$20 million.

David King, chief executive of the LME, registered clear concern about the dummy trade and the large positions taken by the Japanese in the copper market. The SIB likewise. Yet Sumitomo said that false document was required for legitimate (i) Japanese tax purposes, and Mr Hamanaka, who has indicated that he will plead guilty to certain fraud charges, went on to account for about 5 per cent of the global copper market.

There were further warnings to Sumitomo that also seem to have been ignored. Although this column has had good reason in the past to take City watchdogs to task, it appears that everything that could and should have been done, was. The trouble is that the metals market is dominated by a few very large professional players who know the rules — there are no widows and orphans being gyped, and they should perhaps be left to look after their own affairs. The sort of regulation available to less specialised authorities can only be minimal and tangential.

As to how such investigations should be handled after the fact, the Sumitomo affair is being examined by civil and criminal authorities in Britain, the US and Japan. In many ways it provides a template for the future, showing how all the different bodies should co-operate. Whether any charges, other than those against Mr Hamanaka, are pressed remains to be seen: piecing together the huge copper trades done on behalf of Sumitomo will take many more months.

But there is a growing feeling in the City that the UK authorities are being too tactful and circumspect with their Japanese counterparts. It is whispered that if anyone were to be so impolite as to raise criticisms, or even be suspected of doing so, Japan would withdraw its co-operation.

This is arrant nonsense. As one of the biggest and most respected traders in the world the Japanese must learn to be more open with their international partners. Perhaps if they had listened to those warnings back in 1991 they would not be in such a sensitive position now.

Ringing change at the cash tills

THE rich get richer, the poor get poorer, and God is indeed on the side of the big battalions — at least in the supermarket wars. The sector's interim reporting season ended with a bang, as Asda stormed in with outstanding profit and sales growth.

The chain's gross margins, the all-important measure for the



grocers, may have fallen by half a percentage point, but the company's extraordinary resurgence over the past half-decade has been more about volume growth, and this trend continued. Like-for-like sales were 10 per cent ahead, and customer numbers 7 per cent higher. And all this without a loyalty card. Archie Norman, now chairman, can contemplate a less taxing role and a political career with some confidence.

How different it was for Iceland back in September, at the beginning of the results season, reporting the first profits setback in the company's 26-year history. Since then we have had Tesco confirming its position as number one in the sector, J

Sainsbury struggling with little success so far, to find a way to get back on top, and Safeway coming in as a solid runner-up.

The sector has, even more than before, split into two packs. Way out ahead are Tesco, J Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway. The rest are also-rans, and the tiddlers in the sector, particularly Kwik Save, look weaker than ever. The big four have been using their buying power and sophisticated marketing techniques to steal market share. The end result must be consolidation among those also-rans, and the exit of one or more of the foreign discounters who have set up shop over here.

It will be difficult for any of the big four to snap up the smaller chains without running into competition problems, particularly if Labour is in power, so deals may have to be struck. It will be amusing to watch Asda and Tesco, for example, squabbling over how to carve up, say, Wm Morrisons to their own mutual advantage, but the spectacle is likely to begin before too long. The existence of proper competition in such a market is a

worry. But there is little to suggest that the tiddlers ever exerted much pressure on their more successful rivals.

Mr Antonini remains as chief executive. His contract runs for another year and a bit, and he must be still paid a "guaranteed bonus" equal to at least half his earnings. Fine minds might muse the difference between a guaranteed bonus and a straight salary — might it have something to do with disguising the size of the latter?

Simple shareholders should consider two questions ahead of Berisford's annual meeting on January 28. Just what is Mr Antonini doing to justify that package? And why is the company refusing to promise now that his contract, once it expires, will not be renewed?

Shut up and pay up

MORGAN GRENFELL has developed another unpleasant trait besides losing investors' money: whingeing about it. MG claims to have been unfairly treated by watchdog Imro over the mismanagement of its European funds. But no such complaint could arise if investors had not suffered first. Now is the time for Morgan Grenfell to shut up, stop bringing the unit trust industry into disrepute and pay up to 90,000-plus investors. And no later than today, please.

Rank says £185m charges will hit full-year figures

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

RANK GROUP, the leisure company, yesterday disappointed the City with a worse than expected trading statement and the suggestion that the sale of its £1 billion stake in Rank Xerox might be delayed until early 1998.

Rank shares fell 24½p to 417½p after analysts downgraded full-year figures from about £330 million to £300

million. Rank shares have now fallen more than 20 per cent since April with the City concerned about the company's strategy.

Rank also said that full-year profits would be hit by about £18 million in exceptional charges, including £35 million costs for restructuring and a £150 million write-down after a property review. However, the

company is expected to complete a £30 million disposal plan with the sale of Kingston Plantation, its US property subsidiary, early next year for about £60 million.

The company said in its 11-month trading statement that all the businesses had moved ahead in 1996, with film and entertainment services performing especially strongly. Video duplication volumes increased 16 per cent, boosted by major releases in the US such as *Independence Day*, *Mission Impossible* and *The Nutty Professor*.

Rank added that the integration of the remainder of the Hard Rock Cafe chain, which was acquired for £270 million in June, was proceeding well. But profits from the chain have fallen because of a 4 per cent decline in like-for-like sales and the temporary closure of the Paris outlet. Rank said that it had plans to accelerate openings.

Rank's admissions rose slightly on a like-for-like basis, bucking the market trend. Spending per head also rose 6 per cent, helping Rank to increase gaming profit. The company added that its cinema had also been performing strongly.

Tom Cobleigh, the pub chain acquired for £120 million, is performing up to expectations and new sites have been identified. Rank said it was aiming to add 20 new pubs in 1997 to the existing 52 sites.

The volumes of UK holidays increased 3 per cent with a 5 per cent boost in retail spending at the sites, which include Oasis and Warner. Paid admissions to Universal City, Florida, also rose 6 per cent.

The company added that it expected to receive £40 million in profits from its stake in Rank Xerox.

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Berisford reveals £270,000 bonus

BY JASON NISSE

BERISFORD, the troubled conglomerate that recently suffered a profits warning and the disappearance of a bid approach, paid the head of its US business a £270,000 bonus last year, taking his total package to £71,000.

Marion Antonini, who joined the group when it bought Webilt for £200 million two years ago, received the bonus despite disappointing figures from the US side.

A spokesman said that Mr Antonini's contract guaranteed a bonus of at least 50 per cent of his basic salary. The bonus paid equalled 62 per cent. The contract runs until January 1998 when it can be

renegotiated. Institutional investors are opposed to both guaranteed bonus payments and contracts lasting for more than a year. One said yesterday that he would be taking up the matter with the company.

Berisford shares have nearly halved in value over the past year thanks to problems at Webilt and Magnet, the Yorkshire joinery company it bought for £80 million.

Alan Bowkett, Berisford's chief executive, has given massive share options when he joined the company. They are now valued at £1.3 million.

Pennington, page 23

Citizens raises \$89m from mortgage rights

BY MARTIN BARROW

CITIZENS Financial Group, the Royal Bank of Scotland subsidiary in America, has raised \$89 million through the sale of \$5 billion of third party mortgage servicing rights to Devonmuell Mortgage.

Devonmuell will also subserve the entire portfolio of mortgage loans owned by Citizens, currently \$3.2 billion.

In September Citizens said that it planned to sell its entire \$8.8 billion mortgage servicing portfolio and withdraw from the wholesale mortgage business.

The decision was taken as

part of a strategic repositioning to focus on retail mortgage business through its banking franchise in New England.

Yesterday's deal was approved by the Federal Trade Commission to be completed in the first quarter of 1997.

Citizens said that it would continue to explore strategic options for the remaining \$3.8 billion of third party mortgage servicing rights.

Royal Bank of Scotland owns 76.5 per cent of Citizens. The balance is owned by Bank of Ireland.

New chief reflects new Whitbread

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

DAVID THOMAS is to take over as chief executive of Whitbread, the leisure and brewing company, when Peter Jarvis steps down next summer, the company announced yesterday.

Mr Thomas is currently managing director of the restaurants and leisure division. Mr Jarvis has served as chief executive since 1985.

Whitbread's choice of Mr Thomas reflects its continuing move away from its brewing roots towards hotel and retail activities. The company is the third-largest hotel group in the UK after its acquisition of the Marriott hotel franchise, and the second-largest restaurants group.

Retail elements contribute 66 per cent of profits, up from 37 per cent ten years ago. The company predicts that the retail side will produce 75 per cent of profits within the next few years, with brewing providing just 10 per cent.

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Digital TV guidelines set out

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE regulatory framework for digital television, the broadcasting revolution that will bring a huge increase in channels, was outlined yesterday by the industry regulator.

Don Crickshank, Director-General of Ofcom, drafted a series of guidelines to ensure that the market cannot be influenced by companies controlling the all-important decoders. He is attempting to ensure competitive access to digital television by a range of broadcasters and to enable customers to choose services without system complications.

Digital television is expected to start late next year when BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News

International, owner of *The Times*, launches a 200-channel service. A terrestrial version is expected to begin in 1998. Mr Crickshank said the guidelines, which are still at the consultative stage, would not delay the start.

He also sought to dispel fears over the potential domination of the market by BSkyB, which has aroused concern because it will be the first player in the area and will have a head start on the decoding hardware.

Regulation of digital television will centre on the decoding mechanism. The guidelines are designed so that technology is not used to "distort, restrict or prevent competition in television".

Ofcom will watch over the electronic programme guides with which viewers will move around the system to find

Savings Account Plus

Instant Access Account

Interest Rates

From 23/12/96 our Savings Account Plus interest rates will be as shown below.

INTEREST PAID GROSS OF TAX

£ From	% Gross Rate	% Net CAR
<£5,000	0.5	0.5
£1,000-£4,999	3.47	3.5
£5,000-£9,999	3.715	3.75
£10,000+	4.45	4.5

INTEREST PAID NET OF TAX

£ From	% Net	% Net CAR
<£5,000	0.4	0.4
£1,000-£4,999	2.78	2.8
£5,000-£9,999	2.97	2.99
£10,000+	3.56	3.59

A minimum balance of at least £1,000 must be maintained on all Savings Account Plus Accounts.

* Comounded Annual Rate (CAR) is the rate annualised to take account of the compounding of interest paid other than once a year.

Interest is paid twice yearly in March and September.

Interest will normally be paid net of income tax at the basic rate on savings income prevailing at the time. Tax may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue where the amount exceeds an individual's liability to tax. Interest may be paid without deduction of tax to individuals and charities who do not expect to be liable for income tax and who are eligible and register for this purpose.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Billion-share turnover extends the festive rally

DEALERS had to contend with another day of frenetic trading, with a staggering 1.1 billion shares changing hands, as the London stock market extended its pre-Christmas rally.

Share prices closed at their best of the day, underpinned by another positive start to trading on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average was sporting a near 60-point rise in early trading.

Investors were heartened enough to shrug off the stronger than expected surge in the November money supply that could add pressure for a further rise in interest rates.

Instead, the FTSE 100 index put on a further 33.1 points to close at 4,051.3, extending its lead during the past two days to 77.1. Year-end window dressing by the institutions and book squaring ahead of today's expiry of the December options were given as reasons for the high turnover and sharp price movements among leading shares.

Stock shortages drove Railtrack 271p higher to 398p ahead of the stock going ex-dividend in the new year. United Biscuits, that old takeover favourite, also put on 5p at 210p as a few speculative buyers again dreamt of a break-up bid. Dalgety extended this week's lead with a rise of 4p at 354p as it continued to talk to brokers.

But brokers were unimpressed with the trading update from Rank Organisation, the price dropping 251p to 4161p. BZW has cut its profit forecast for the current year from £32 million to £34 million after the group warned of write-offs of £235 million. The sale of Rank's £1 billion stake in Rank Xerox has been put back to 1998.

Takesover speculation continued to drive General Accident higher. The price jumped 141p to 750p. Speculators are still talking about a possible bid from BAT Industries, up 171p at 484p, after talks with Commercial Union were reckoned to have been aborted. CU rose 11p to 688p.

The City gave a cautious welcome to half-year figures from Asda showing pre-tax profits 16 per cent higher at £160.1 million. The shares firmed 14p to 1251p. Archie Norman, chairman, said he was reluctant to take on the market leaders by expanding its loyalty card scheme to cover all Asda stores. The



Shares in Asda firmed 14p on first-half results for Allan Leighton, chief executive, left, and Archie Norman

price closed 3p better at 1264p.

News of its defeat in the US courts saw GKN dip below the 110 level, touching 969p before reducing the deficit to 351p at 10,091p. The group now plans to make provisions to take account of an award made against its Meineke subsidiary totalling \$395 million. The group emphasised

Europe and currency fluctuations for the setback. The group will also take a £1.4 million hit on the sale of Tocover, its loss-making French business.

Fountain Forestry established a useful premium in first time trading on the Alternative Investment Market after a placing by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 75p. The group emphasised

Hunters Armley, the commercial printer, stood out with a rise of 121p at 105p on the back of a "buy" recommendation from Panmure Gordon, the broker. Panmure has increased its pre-tax profit estimate for the current year from £4 million to £42 million. That compares with £1.8 million last time.

that the provisions would not affect the current year.

A profits warning left Rutherford 101p lower at 1011p. The fall might have been greater but the group has pegged its total dividend at 6.1p despite a disappointing second-half performance that will leave profits for the full year below expectations. The group blamed poor weather in

the group, which provides forest management and tree related services for private and corporate landowners, utilities and local authorities, saw its price start life at 791p before closing at 841p, a premium of 91p.

First-time dealings in Crown Leisure, the fruit machine supplier, made an encouraging start after plac-

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COMMODITIES

Liffe

COCOA

ROBUSTA COFFEE (RBO)

WHITE SUGAR (PDS)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative abattoirs on December 11

(kg/kg) Pig Sheep Cattle

Beef 13.2 13.2 13.2

Eng/Wales 16.97 16.81 16.50

Scotland 14.30 14.70 14.30

Ireland 12.33 10.97 10.97

Wales 13.69 -12.58 -12.58

N. Ire 9.10 -12.00 -12.00

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Potato Oil (L/L)

Brent Crude Oil (bbls)

Italian Govt Bond

Prudential (Volume 101)

London Metal Exchange

Railtrack

United Biscuits

Asda

FTSE INDEX (4099)

FTSE 100

FTSE 250

FTSE 1000

**THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY**

**Policing by
the book**

THE Metropolitan Police made a surprise visit yesterday to the West End offices of Dennis Publishing.

As a Christmas prank (supposedly) one of the staff hung out a sign saying "Help, I am being held here against my will". A concerned local resident dialled 999 on seeing the note, and the police immediately sent round officers to investigate.

A rather bemused receptionist told the officers that she could hardly stop people leaving at the end of an evening, and a relieved constable replied: "We'll have to get the armed hostage squad out, then."

Sunken feeling

POOR Russell Jones, property director of Newcastle United, is riding the length of time it has taken for Newcastle City Council to approve the club's scheme to build a new stadium. He claims to have come up with the idea for a sunken pitch and was sick as a parrot when he saw the plans for the new stadium for deadly rivals Sunderland Football Club with, guess what, a sunken pitch.

Miles worse

TEETHING trouble at the Kuwait Investment Office which yesterday hosted its first annual draw. Dissent broke out among employees on the announcement of the rules drawn up to qualify for air miles amassed by KIO's high-flying executives. Staff were required to have worked at least six hours a week overtime. Even one day off work sick would have invalidated their entry. Into the hat went 60 names: 20 lucky winners flew off with between 500 and 3,500 air miles.



Skirting issues

ROBERT THOMSON, the chief executive of Scottish Friendly Assurance Society, will be donning his kilt in Mackintosh tartan tonight for a ceilidh at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. Word has it that, not to be outdone, Thomson has been in training for the gathering.

In character

THE urbane Martin Taylor, the chief executive at Barclays, will be rubbing shoulders with the banking unions today. Fortunately for Taylor, he is fluent in a number of languages, not least of which is Mandarin.

Tread carefully

HOT off the press comes the second issue of the Treasury's Accommodation and Secretary Team bulletin. As well as numerous reminders on how not to start a fire (don't load the electrical circuits with electrical fires, electric guitars, and other electrical appliances, other than necessary office equipment), there is a tempting paragraph titled "Sticky Situations". Under desks, trodden into floors, and even around the urinals are just a few of the places that chewing gum has been found lurking. Yours Disgusted

A sterling forecast that funds ought not to have ignored

Far-fetched sounding predictions proved to be the most reliable

Few things in life are more pleasant than saying "I told you so" — and few things more dangerous. It is therefore with some trepidation that I turn to the annual task of reviewing the new year predictions that I made last January. My forecasts for 1996 proved remarkably successful and I am all too aware that luck has a way of turning after a winning streak. Readers may do well to bear this in mind when I publish my views about 1997.

While most of the forecasts I made turned out to be right, the best ones, as usual, were the ones that seemed most far-fetched at the time. I said that the pound would be the best pick among the world's major currencies, an idea considered risible by most economists and investors a year ago. My faith in the pound was based on confidence that the British economy would grow faster than generally expected, while most other leading economies would disappoint.

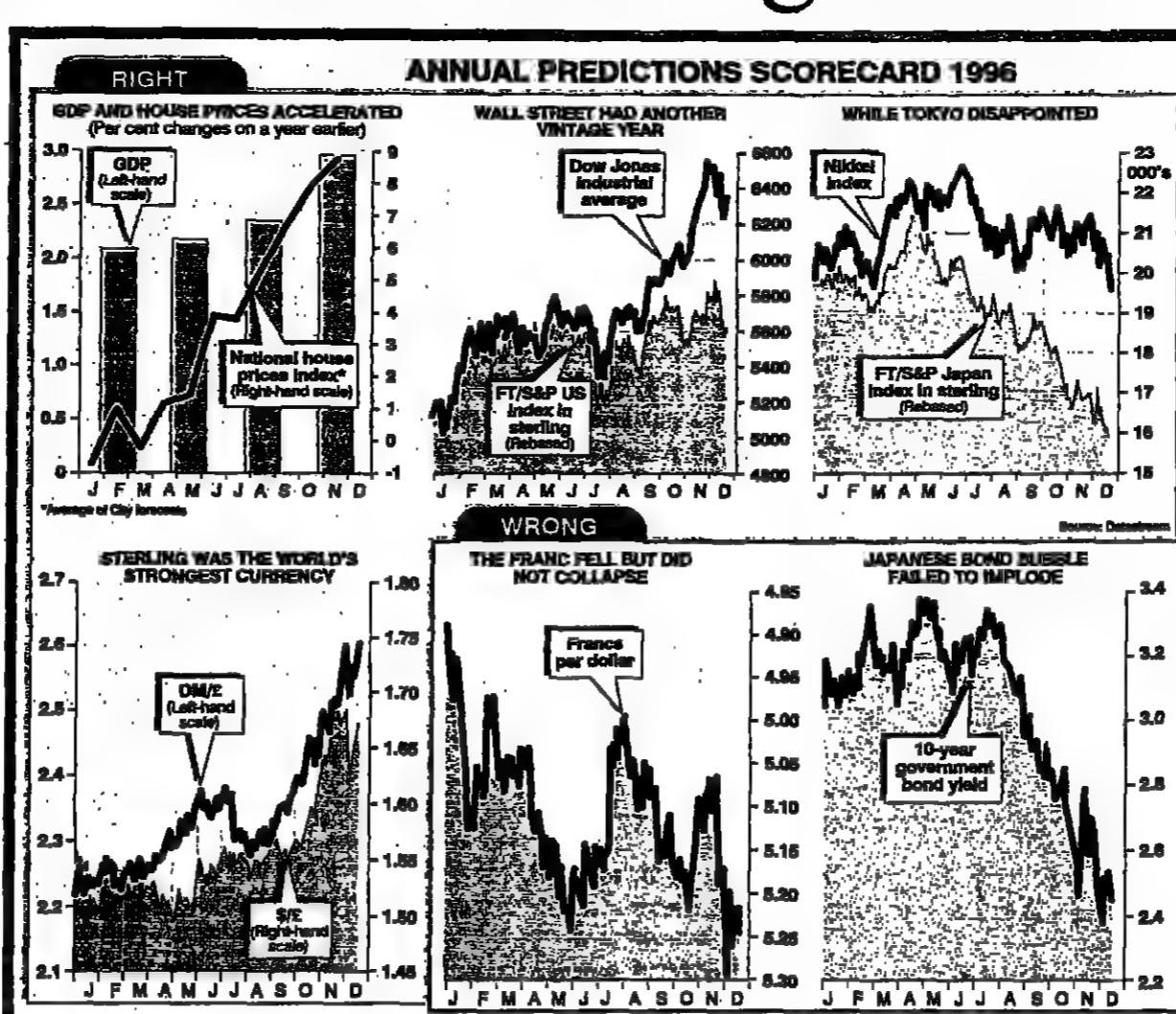
As the year progressed and it became more apparent that the pound had bottomed, my confidence grew and I presented a number of other arguments in favour of sterling — among them the likelihood that a future Labour government would impose higher interest rates than the Tories, combined with a somewhat looser fiscal policy.

So far, this analysis has worked well and the pound has been easily the strongest of the major currency. In the past few weeks sterling has shown signs of a reversal, but it is far too early to suppose that the underlying trend has again turned down.

My second contrarian call, for the second year running, was about Wall Street. I stuck firmly to a view about American investment which most professional fund managers, especially in the City of London, contemptuously rejected and still reject. This view was, quite simply, that American shares were still good value and that the widely derailed Wall Street crash was not even on the horizon.

I rejected the popular argument that dividend yields on Wall Street were too low or that the heady rate of price gains had set the market up for a crash. Both of these propositions seemed to be based on a wishful misreading of the statistics by analysts and investors who had simply made the strategic mistake of underestimating US profits growth.

Of course, after a gain of a further 20 per cent in the past 12 months, the question of Wall Street's underlying value has to



be considered afresh and I shall try to do that on January 10. For the moment, suffice it to say that the still-dreaded crash is unlikely to happen between now and then.

My third, even more controversial, conviction was about stock markets in Japan and Asia. I was convinced that the Japanese market would go nowhere, while most of the Asian emerging markets would continue to fall.

The view among the professionals could not have been more different. Last January, the Merrill Lynch survey of British fund managers, who between them controlled assets worth more than £1,000 billion, showed bulls on Japan outnumbering bears by a record 78 percentage points.

In the event, of course, Tokyo put in a dismal performance — culminating in this week's meltdown which has taken the market to a new low for the year in yen terms and a loss of more than 20 per cent for British investors who were also exposed to the sharp fall of the yen against the pound. A year ago the professionals were also extremely optimistic about Asian emerging markets, which have in general performed even worse. These same people were overwhelmingly bearish about the prospects for Wall Street.

Taking account of the profits foregone on Wall Street by redirecting money from America to Japan, the total losses for British pension funds from this one strategic blunder can be reckoned at 30 per cent or more.

To judge by the latest Merrill Lynch surveys, these same British investors (along

with their fellows in other financial centres, most of whom made the same mistake) have now finally given up on Tokyo and the Pacific Basin. Given their recent track record this may be a signal that the Asian markets are finally worth buying — a question to which I shall return next month.

Meanwhile, there has been the bull market of a lifetime in the bonds of other European countries, especially Italy and Spain, which were not even considered serious candidates for EMU a year ago. Arguably they are still not serious candidates, but nobody can deny the serious profits made by investors who have chosen to take them seriously.

My third big mistake also related to bonds. Like most rational people, I expected a collapse in the Japanese bond market, where insurance companies were eagerly buying ten-year government debt yielding less than 3 per cent to fund contracts with guaranteed returns of 4 per cent or more. But instead of exploding or imploding, the Japanese bond bubble just continued to grow.

In France I foresaw an "outright recession". This was correct in technical terms, since French GDP did decline for two successive quarters, but it reflected an inaccurate assessment of the French Government's ability to stick to its commitments on European monetary union. That, in turn, led to two of the three big mistakes I made in my financial forecasts.

I thought the franc would suffer a "string of crises" and would eventually be devalued against the mark. This turned out to be wrong, although I did suggest that bets against franc for could be hedged by selling francs against dollars, rather than marks. This was a chance seized with alacrity by many British and American residents in France and it yielded a profit of about 7 per cent.

I also wrongly believed that the fears about EMU would put a "surprisingly high floor" under long-term interest rates in Germany and in the rest of Europe. The reality, of course, has been very different. Al-

though German bond yields did rise in the first half of the year, surprising many investors, they have now fallen back to about last January's level.

Meanwhile, there has been the bull market of a lifetime in the bonds of other European countries, especially Italy and Spain, which were not even considered serious candidates for EMU a year ago. Arguably they are still not serious candidates, but nobody can deny the serious profits made by investors who have chosen to take them seriously.

But conventional views about the consequences of stronger growth were pessimistic. For example, many forecasters were still predicting that house prices would go on falling. I said, by contrast, that housing offered "stunningly attractive" value and prices would rise by "nearer 10 per cent than the 2 or 3 per cent most experts predict". This turned out to be right, with the latest figures from the Nationwide Building Society showing a rise of 9 per cent.

I also argued that there was nothing surprising about the economic "feel-bad" factor which still preoccupied political commentators a year ago: it was simply a function of the slowest growth in nominal disposable income in 40 years and would be replaced by the elusive "feel-good" factor with the return of robust economic growth. But I disagreed with the Tory economic determinists, such as Michael Heseltine, who believed (and still believe) that rising disposable incomes would automatically lift the Government's political fortunes.

I maintained (and still maintain) that, with the return of prosperity, politics would become more detached from economics. "The economic revival is unlikely to do John Major much good," I said in January. That is one prediction that I will certainly be making again in my 1997 outlook, which should appear here on January 10.

Electricity pool up to its neck in troubles

Christine Buckley assesses the latest clashes afflicting the power industry

Once again the electricity marketplace is under fire. Critics are mounting a two-pronged attack — over the price of electricity in the pool, the power trading forum, and over extra payments made to generators to ensure security of supply.

The conflicts focus fresh attention on the much criticised electricity pool. It is by no means the first time it has been attacked in its six-year history. Recently J Sainsbury led a group of commercial customers in withholding part of their electricity bills in protest at the rise in the cost of meters.

Large energy-user groups are lobbying the industry regulator and the Department of Trade and Industry for change — so far with no signs of success. Prices, they argue, are too high with generation indicating none of the price pressure promised from increased competition. The regulator had argued that more generators would create keener prices in the price-setting area of the market and ordered National Power and PowerGen to sell stations. After several months of a new player joining the two main generators and First Hydro, the peak electricity producer, no difference in electricity pool prices has materialised.

In fact since Eastern bought power stations from National Power and PowerGen the price of electricity has been unusually high with greater payments made to the

generators. On top of the rewards offered to electricity producers for making stations available to feed high electricity demands are fresh incentives to combat generating instability created by gas contracts that can be interrupted. These contracts are struck between gas suppliers and generators at reduced prices on the basis that they may be temporarily halted at the wish of the supplier.

The DTI has urged the pool to instigate measures to ensure security of supply. Last winter the supply system came near to collapse twice. The new payments for power station standby, staff costs and some switching from gas to more expensive fuels, along with general payments for capacity, pump up the spot price of electricity.

There are also fears that the payments will enable generators to arbitrage between the gas and electricity markets, selling their gas into the gas market and then receiving payments for switching to more expensive

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REXENE PRODUCTS  **VISION IN SPECIALTY FILMS**

The gal who pulls in mega-bucks

Carl Mortished checks out the charms of Barbie, the fashion icon

For designer glitter, head up to Madison Avenue where the very rich and the very thin buy frills and furs. This patch of New York, a block from Fifth Avenue and Central Park, houses and clothes the city's most elegant and most extravagant.

But the very pinnacle of chic is not to be found at Armani, Donna Karan or Versace. Instead, walk a little further on to FAO Schwarz, where New York's famous toy emporium has erected a temple to the world's most successful fashion model.

Through a plate glass window two stories high, bathed in light is Barbara Millicent Roberts — better known as Barbie. Clad in a tight-fitting little black cocktail dress with golden tresses flying, she clutches a pink chiffon scarf and croons into a microphone. She is Barbie the torch singer, Solo in the spotlight.

Surrounding the floor-to-ceiling image are Barbies in display



crown and holding the flame of liberty. There are Barbies in national dress and "My Fair Lady", Barbie as Eliza Doolittle.

There is further evidence that this is no mere plastic plaything. Priced at \$200-\$300, devotees can buy Barbie as "Goddess of the Sun" designed by Christian Dior. Collectors prize such items and original Mattel Barbies from 1959 fetch upwards of \$4,000 at auction. Yvonne Bentley, of Phillips, the auctioneer, says Barbie is a fashion icon collected by adults. "Quite a lot of men collect Barbie dolls. Barbie keeps pace with fashion trends and has become a cult. Wide skirts in the Fifties, miniskirts in the Sixties and hot pants in the Seventies."

Collectors lovingly study every detail, particularly the clothes and make-up. Even Barbie's mouth has changed over the years to the wide smile of a Cindy Crawford.

Collecting is important, but

fascinations: astronaut, air stewardess, nurse. More recently, she was "Busy gal Barbie" the businesswoman.

Could Barbie be more than she seems? Her namesake, Saint Barbara, was a virgin martyr who lived in Asia minor in the 3rd century. Locked in a tower by a jealous father to discourage suitors, she was baptised secretly. Enraged, the father tortured and executed her. Barbie as virgin heroine is not such a fanciful concept. Throughout history, cults have emerged around female figures representing fertility and chastity without apparent contradiction.

Today's gift of Barbie is a more secular practice, but fans of the doll will recognise similar characteristics: the curiously enlarged breasts on the impossibly slim, chaste frame.

Back on Madison Avenue, the god is still mammon, but inside FAO Schwarz, devotees gather at Barbie's temple. A young mother with a toddler points to the huge Barbie image. "Look, Barbie, Barbie," she repeats. "Bobby, baby" gurgles the little girl. "No, Barbie, Barbie," insists mom-

Future of NSM in doubt as talks begin with banks

By MARTIN BARROW, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NSM, the troubled private mining company, is in talks with its banks after new operational difficulties caused a shortage of working capital, raising questions about the company's long-term survival.

NSM said that it remained convinced about the viability of its South Wales anthracite operation, provided funds were available to complete the development and to lift production to optimum levels by mid-1997.

Shares of NSM fell 4p, to 8p, yesterday after the company said that it would take an exceptional charge of £71.4 million on the sale of operations, primarily in the United States.

Last month the company appointed PaineWebber Inc, the American merchant bank, to secure a buyer for its operations in Pennsylvania

and West Virginia, which are likely to be sold separately. The businesses, already affected by depressed coal prices in America, have encountered environmental and geological problems. West Virginia was closed for some months while restoration work was under way, although operations have now been reopened to honour local contracts and to complete the outstanding work.

The Pennsylvanian operation is now effectively reduced to one major opencast site and three deep mines, although NSM says that many of the cash-consuming restoration and environmental difficulties have now been completed.

John Jermine, chairman of NSM, said: "There is a return of confidence in the United States coal sector with the expectation of gradually increasing coal prices in coming years, making it an attractive proposition for investors able to take a longer term perspective." Progress had been made in identifying potential buyers of the business in Pennsylvania.

Provisions left NSM nursing a pre-tax loss of £75.65 million in the half-year to September 30, against profits of £2.52 million. The loss per share was 12.3p (earnings of 3.9p). There is again no dividend.

The operating loss was £400,000 (£5.6 million profit), comprising a profit of £2.1 million in the UK, and losses of £1.7 million in America, less central costs. Turnover from continuing operations was £59.6 million, rising from £54.4 million previously.

Temps. page 24



Graham Lockyer, the Triplex Lloyd chief executive, rejected William Cook's forecasts

Open General Licence Chemical Weapons Act 1996

Date of issue: 1 January 1997

This Licence is granted by the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996 (c.6).

1. Interpretation

- (1) In this Licence "Chemical" means any chemical referred to in the Schedule hereto.
- (2) The Schedule forms part of this Licence together with any subsequent Schedule(s) which the Secretary of State may issue as a variation to this Licence at a later date.

2. Authorisation

Subject to the terms set out below, this Licence authorises any person—

- (a) to produce any Chemical with the intention that it will be used for research, medical and/or pharmaceutical purposes and in a quantity which can be justified for such purposes; and
- (b) to have in his possession and use any Chemical for or with the intention that it will be used for research, medical, pharmaceutical and/or protective purposes and in a quantity which can be justified for such purposes.

3. Restrictions

- (1) A person shall not produce Chemicals in an aggregate amount exceeding 5 grammes in any calendar year.
- (2) A person shall not use or have in his possession more than an aggregate amount of 5 grammes of Chemicals at any time.

4. Notification to the Secretary of State

- (1) (a) a person shall immediately notify the Secretary of State if he has any Chemical in his possession at the date hereof and shall notify the Secretary of State within 14 days if he produces or otherwise acquires possession of any Chemical at any time hereafter.
- (b) a person who is required to notify the Secretary of State pursuant to sub-clause (1)(a) above shall give particulars of—

- (i) his name and address; and
- (ii) the location where he produced and/or has the Chemical in his possession.

- (c) the person shall notify the Secretary of State within 14 days after any change to any of the said particulars.

- (d) where a person has notified the Secretary of State under sub-clause (1)(a) he shall notify the Secretary of State by 15th January in each subsequent year if he still has the Chemical in his possession on 1st January in that year.

- (2) A person shall notify the Secretary of State at least 50 days in advance if he intends to import from or export to another Member State of the European Community either of the Chemicals numbered (7) and (8) in the Schedule. He must identify in the notice the Chemical, the quantity, the purpose(s) and the proposed date of the importation or exportation, and the name and address of the transferor or consignee or end user, as the case may be.

- (3) Any notice to be given by a person under this clause shall be in writing and shall be sent by post or delivered to the Chemical Weapons Authority, King's House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW.

5. Records

- A person who produces, has in his possession, or uses a Chemical shall keep a written record for a period of 3 years of—

- (a) its name, structural formula, Chemical Abstract Service registry number (if any) and quantity;
- (b) the purpose(s) for which it was produced, in his possession; or used; and
- (c) the person from whom he acquired it and/or to whom he has transferred it (if any).

He must permit a person authorised by the Secretary of State to examine and take copies of such records at any reasonable time.

6. Commencement

This Licence shall come into force on 1st January 1997.

M. J. Jernine.

An Official of the Department of Trade and Industry authorised to act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Schedule Chemicals

(CAS registry number)

(1) O-Alkyl (<C10: incl. cycloalkyl) alkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-phosphonofluorides e.g. Sarin: O-isopropyl methylphosphonofluoride	(107-44-8)
(2) O-Alkyl (<C10: incl. cycloalkyl) N,N-dialkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-phosphoramidoanhydrides e.g. Tabun: O-Ethyl N,N-dimethyl phosphorimidocyanide	(96-64-0)
(3) O-Alkyl (H or <C10: incl. cycloalkyl) S-2-dialkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-aminomethyl alkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-phosphonofluorides and corresponding alkylated or protonated salts e.g. VX: O-Ethyl S-2-diisopropylaminoethyl methyl phosphonothioate	(77-81-6)
(4) Sulfur mustard 2-Chloroethylchloromethylsulfide Mustard gas (2-chlorovinyl) sulfide Bis (2-chlorovinylidene) methane Sesquimustard: 1,2-Bis (2-chlorovinylidene) ethane 1,3-Bis (2-chlorovinylidene)-n-propane 1,4-Bis (2-chlorovinylidene)-n-butane 1,5-Bis (2-chlorovinylidene)-n-pentane Bis (2-chlorovinylidene) ether (-Mustard: Bis (2-chlorovinylidene) ether	(50782-49-90)
(5) Lewisites: Lewisite 1: 2-Chlorovinylidenechloroarsine Lewisite 2: Bis (2-chlorovinyl) chloroarsine Lewisite 3: Tri (2-chlorovinyl) arazine	(541-25-3) (40334-65-6) (40334-70-1)
(6) Nitrogen Mustards: HN1: Bis (2-chlorovinyl) ethylamine HN2: Bis (2-chlorovinyl) methylamine HN3: Tri (2-chlorovinyl) amine	(538-07-8) (51-75-2) (555-77-1)
(7) Saxitoxin	(35523-89-8)
(8) Ricin	(9009-86-3)
(9) Alkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr) phosphonyldifluorides e.g. DF: Methylphosphonyldifluoride	(676-99-3)
(10) O-Alkyl (H or <C10: incl. cycloalkyl) O-2-dialkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-aminomethyl alkyl (Me, Et, n-Pr or i-Pr)-phosphonites and corresponding alkylated or protonated salts e.g. QX: O-Ethyl O-2-diisopropylaminoethyl methylphosphonite	(57856-11-8)
(11) Chlorosarin: O-isopropyl methylphosphonochloride	(1445-76-7)
(12) Chlorosoman: O-Pinacolyl methylphosphonochloride	(7040-57-5)

Notes:
1. In this Schedule the reference to the CAS registry is to the Chemical Abstract Service registry.

2. This Schedule must be read subject to the following proviso, where reference is made to groups of alkylated chemicals followed by a list of alkyl groups in parentheses; all chemicals notable by all sensible

PUBLIC NOTICES

H. M. Land Registry
It is proposed to lease a new dwelling house to be situated to stand to have been lost or destroyed, any new dwelling house to be erected or objecting to the loss of a new one should at once notify the Land Registry of Cork, Hibernia Buildings, Cork, Ireland, T22 0X2, or the Land Registry of Dublin, 10 Lower Baggott Street, Dublin, D01 KZT, Ireland, T12 0X2, or the Land Registry of Belfast, 10 Donegall Square, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN, or the Land Registry of Cardiff, 10 St. Mary's Place, Cardiff, CF1 4JL, Wales, or the Land Registry of Edinburgh, 10 St. Mary's Place, Edinburgh, EH1 1LA, Scotland, or the Land Registry of Belfast, 10 Donegall Square, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN, or the Land Registry of Cardiff, 10 St. Mary's Place, Cardiff, CF1 4JL, Wales, or the Land Registry of Edinburgh, 10 St. Mary's Place, Edinburgh, EH1 1LA, Scotland, or the Land Registry of Belfast, 10 Donegall Square, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN, or the Land Registry of Cardiff, 10 St. 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INTEGRATED SERVICE

Gilts and equities move higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

		High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	% Chg	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES								
556 412 Allied Domecq 437 1/2 68 13.2		620 + 1	59 18.0					
225 413 British Beer 250 1/2 46 11.5		240 + 2	12 11.4					
121 414 Carlsberg 70 1/2 61 7.4		61 1/2 + 1	47 12.5					
855 415 Grolsch 41 1/2 12 1.2		39 1/2 + 1	12 11.5					
6187 416 Heublein 104 1/2 42 14.1		104 + 1	42 14.1					
235 417 Heublein USA 104 1/2 42 14.1		104 + 1	42 14.1					
278 418 Highland Distl 111 1/2 33 6.5		111 + 1	33 6.5					
121 419 Imperial Distl 137 1/2 25 13.4		137 + 1	25 13.4					
328 420 Jim Beam 137 1/2 25 13.4		137 + 1	25 13.4					
211 421 Johnnie Walker 137 1/2 25 13.4		137 + 1	25 13.4					
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283 426 Seagram 23 1/2 5.5		23 1/2 + 1	5.5					
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285 428 Southern Comfort 23 1/2 5.5		23 1/2 + 1	5.5					
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■ HERITAGE

Admiralty Arch, and the history that it embodies, should be opened up to the public



■ THEATRE

Joanne Pearce stars in an absorbing new RSC staging of Ibsen's *Little Eyolf* at the Swan in Stratford



■ MUSIC

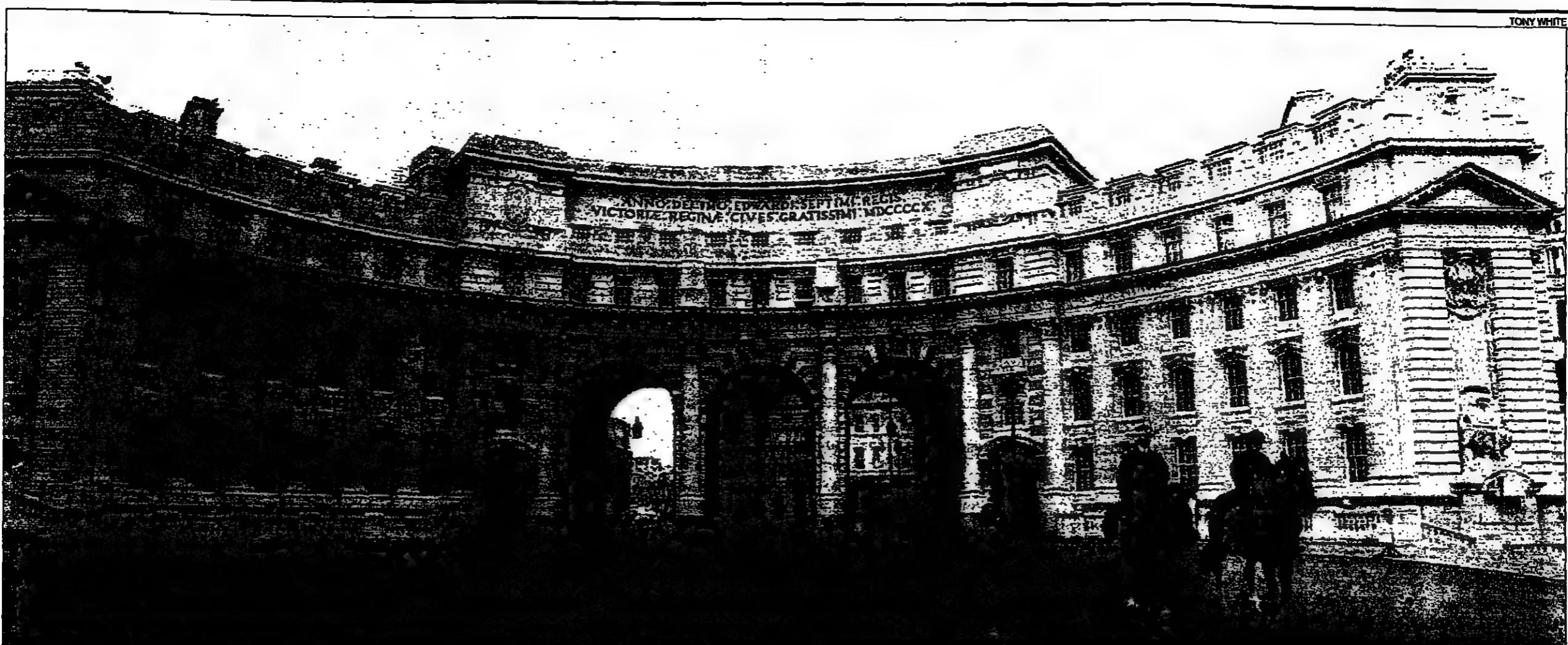
Music by Haydn and his contemporaries is featured in a fine concert on period instruments



■ TOMORROW

How does Leslie Phillips fare on his debut at the RSC? Read the verdict of Benedict Nightingale

TONY WHITE



Impressive gateway to the heart of London: "Simply removing flimsy partitions would create the most animated views in London. For the price of a coffee and cake, anyone could watch the Household Cavalry trotting up the Mall."

Admiralty Arch was on the market little more than hours before it was withdrawn again. The Government, stung by the fury which greeted advertisements for the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich, could not face another row about "selling off the family silver". The Prime Minister has declared firmly that the mighty arch must have a public use. But this can be interpreted in two ways: a public sector use, or use that allows the public into the building.

Public access has to be the key. The archway may have been built principally as offices for the Admiralty, but making the building meet the regulations and Treasury norms for public sector offices has been costed at a cool £20 million. What a waste of the public's cash.

Exploring the interior today is a depressing experience for one simple reason. Every single window is hung with the heavy duty "bomb blast" net curtains that are stan-

dard issue in every government office. Pull them back, and every window offers ravishing views, up the Mall with its magnificent double lines of plane trees, or across to Trafalgar Square. And thanks to the deep concave recessions of the facades the view from each window is subtly different.

Admiralty Arch was built to the design of Sir Aston Webb, who had the largest architectural practice of the Edwardian era. His public buildings include the main front of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth.

Webb won an invited competition to design a grand processional way along the Mall, centred on the newly commissioned Victoria Me-

morial. His winning tricks were a dramatic semi-circular colonnade facing Buckingham Palace, a huge triumphal arch facing Charing Cross, and three high archways for traffic — like the Second Empire archways through the Louvre in Paris. To the Treasury's delight, Webb abandoned his colonnades for the balustrades we see today, releasing money to reface Buckingham Palace in Portland stone.

Webb impressed the assessors by the ingenious way his receding facades concealed the twist in the road as it passed through the arch.

He also pleased the salts of the Admiralty, showing how they could expand their growing empire from their adjoining palaces (where Michael Portillo has his parties) into the arch.

Webb was also told to provide a pair of houses (London's grandest semis) for the First Lord of the Admiralty and the First Sea Lord. There was only one problem. The First Lord was not told of his new house until 1909 when it was nearly complete. He flatly refused to move, asserting that his existing home had been the historic home

of the First Lord since the Admiralty had been built. The Cabinet backed him. So the First Sea Lord moved into the grander townhouse. But as it was "too large for his status" the top floor was turned into offices.

Inside, the main features remain: splendid panelling, baroque fireplaces, garlanded ceilings and an astonishing marble-sided cantilevered oval stair that must be the model for the grandiose stair in the National Liberal Club, as it was rebuilt after the war.

The dumbbell plan inevitably

contains a great many odd-shaped rooms. It is inconceivable that any office manager would think them other than grossly substandard. But it would be a complete waste of public money to knock our solid Edwardian walls, introducing expensive underfloor cabling.

The solution is simple. The arch should become a large elegant brasserie-style café-restaurant, open all day from breakfast to after-theatre suppers. Simply removing the flimsy partitions would immediately create a room with the most animated views in London.

For the price of a coffee and cake, anyone could watch the Household Cavalry trotting up the Mall. Other rooms beside the arch could be used for banquets and

private functions. The rest could become a small townhouse hotel. If the most expensive hotel in London, the Lanesborough, overlooks the snarling traffic around Hyde Park Corner, there must be a premium on rooms in the Arch. That way, the cost of adapting the building to modern regulations would be met by the private sector.

At present there is talk that the Arch may become yet more offices, perhaps of London First, the organisation which is championing the cause of London. But the days of desks and filing cabinets should be put firmly behind us. If Mr Major is embarrassed at the idea of leasing it to the private sector, why doesn't he simply sell it for a hefty consideration to the Crown Commissioners who own the adjoining Carlton House Terrace? The best tenant might even be Buckingham Palace itself. Millions of hungry and thirsty visitors to the Palace must long for an elegant place in the Mall to rest their weary feet.

loose equivalent of the English medieval carol) from 16th-century Spain. St John's was really too large a performing space and the acoustic tended to favour the lower voices, but there is no doubt of this group's lively and polished approach.

TESS KNIGHTON

Marriage of true impediments

Isaac Bashevis Singer is said to have fainted dead away when, freshly arrived in New York, he opened the door of his apartment to find a towering black man who grimly told him: "I am the exterminator". Actually, he was not Death, just a man whose job was killing cockroaches. But suppose there had been an antique, black-horned figure on the doorstep, who introduced herself as the Rat Wife and offered to rid the house of "any troublesome thing that nibbles and gnaws, creeps and crawls". Panic and superstitious alarm would have been the appropriate responses.

Onions without centres, un-

wild ducks, millstreams, un-

scalable steeples: Ibsen's work was packed with sobering symbols. But the withered visitor in *Little Eyolf* is the most daunting of all. She may think she is simply into pest control, but, without knowing it, she is talking of addictive guilt, half-acknowledged hatreds, and the psychological confusions that wreck the human soul. Specifically, she is talking of one of the most troubled marriages that even Ibsen managed to evoke.

Admittedly, Rita and Almers are not as alienated as the couple at the centre of *John Gabriel Borkman*, which Ibsen wrote just after *Little Eyolf*. They are at least on speaking terms. But they got married for all the wrong reasons. Blame each

Little Eyolf Swan, Stratford

child. Eyolf is a cripple. And when Almers returns from an Ibsenian apotheosis in the mountains saying he means to abandon his writing career to look after Eyolf, Rita's jealous reaction is to wish their son dead. Imagine, then, the recriminations that surface when the boy promptly contrives to get drowned.

Adrian Noble, who directs, abjures the dark, operatic treatment Richard Eyre recently gave *Borkman* at the National. He strips the RSC's Swan stage of almost all the decor Ibsen specified, and asks Joanne Pearce's Rita and Robert Glenister's Almers to expose themselves and their marriage in the kind of bright light one associates with the severer sort of confrontation therapy. Maybe as a result, they lack something in depth and density, but they give brave, emotionally unembarrassed performances. You cannot doubt her overarching possessiveness, nor his anger at himself for not feeling more.

The play's ending, which reads as if it has been flung together by some sentimental social worker, comes across a lot more tentatively here. No one knows that marital knots do not magically unravel themselves. Indeed, his *Little Eyolf* combines intelligence with dramatic clarity. It also offers sturdy supporting performances from Derby Crotty as Almers's half-sister and Damian Lewis as her engineer lover.

The latter's name is Borgheim, but he is also called the Roadmaker and is meant to represent escape, hope and the future in the same way that the Rat Wife (Bridget Turner) is meant to warn against lies and secrecy. I know which symbol I would rather come knocking at my door.

BENEDICT

Not often does a double bass player step into the limelight (except perhaps in *Ronnie Scott's*), but in the latest of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's concert series at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Chi-Chi Nwanoku was the centre of attention in a concerto by the 18th-century violinist and composer Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf.

The piece was written for a Viennese bass player whom Dittersdorf referred to as "the brave" Pichlerberger, and courage was undoubtedly one of the qualities required to tackle this showpiece of technical bravura.

Nwanoku gritted her teeth

and gave a spirited performance of the Concerto No 2 in E flat; with her bass (a 17th-century Amati) returned a sentime

ntone higher to make the key more feasible and the tone of the instrument brighter.

Huge leaps, a striking use of

harmonics and chattering passage-work characterised the writing for bass in the outer movements, while the central Adagio worked a more lyrical vein. It was a veritable *tour de force*, which Nwanoku

tried to do justice to.

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together by some sentimental

social worker, comes across a

lot more tentatively here.

No one knows that marital

knots do not magically unravel

themselves. Indeed, his *Little*

Eyolf combines intelligence

with dramatic clarity. It also

offers sturdy supporting per

formances from Derby Crotty

as Almers's half-sister and

Damian Lewis as her engi

nier lover.

The latter's name is

Borgheim, but he is also cal

led the Roadmaker and is mea

nt to represent escape, hope

and the future in the same way

that the Rat Wife (Bridget

Turner) is meant to warn ag

ainst lies and secrecy. I kno

w which symbol I would rather

come knocking at my door.

BENEDICT

Bravura bass, sublime Haydn

CONCERTS

■ THE annual Christmas festival promoted by Magenta Music at St John's Smith's Square, is under way with its usual blend of the familiar and the less well-known. Sunday evening's concert fell into the latter category, although Spanish Renaissance polyphony in general has established its corner in the early music world.

Camerata Hispanica, a recently formed group of young musicians mostly of Spanish origin, is dedicated to the furtherance of our knowledge. On this occasion, the group comprised three members from Catalonia and a Venezuelan soprano. Two, the tenor Luis Vilanova and the bass-baritone Pau Borda, initially trained in Catalonia.

Here as in the more urbane Symphony No 58, Brüggen's meticulous direction brought playing of the finest order from the OAE in a perfect blend of precision and excitement.

Hispanic polyphony in general has established its corner in the early music world.

The group brings together two strands of the European early music performance tradition. The quality of the voices and approach to the text is representative of the Medi-

terranean school: more full-bodied, more heart-on-sleeve than, say, the Hilliard Ensemble. However, like their British counterparts, the music is presented basically *a cappella*

and with one voice to a part, a performance mode rarely encountered in Spain. The programme they presented was, naturally, a Christmas one, with motets and villancicos (a

Authentic pioneer spirit

ASMF/Sillito
Queen Elizabeth Hall

sounded congenial enough, but there is much in this late masterpiece, an outwardly cheerful but pensive work, that the orchestral playing did not reveal. Andrew Marriner was the agile soloist, who also managed long-breathed, liquid lines in the adagio. A little hooey in the middle register, he brought warmth, nutty tone to the low notes so important in this piece. Beethoven's Symphony No 1, too, was given an amiable reading, but without much of the tension that points to the composer's mature style.

Only in one respect is it

more "authentic" than most of these "authentic" groups: it often plays without a conductor.

Eighteenth-century perfor

mances were directed from the keyboard or by the lead

ing violinist, and at the Queen

Elizabeth Hall on its latest

London outing the Academy

was again led by one of its

violinist-directors, Kenneth

Sillito. We heard four pol

ished performances, but all

needed a firmer interpretive

hand. At least they were in a

good cause: this was the

Academy's Christmas concert

in aid of London's homeless.

JOHN ALLISON

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AA



■ POP 1

To hell and back: Peter Green, founder of Fleetwood Mac, returns to the live stage



■ POP 2

At Wembley Tina Turner defies the passing years with a typically high-voltage show



■ POP 3

The upcoming Irish band, Picture House, are a touch too saccharine on *Shine Box*



■ POP 4

Hardcore rap, spiced with a modicum of wit, is supplied on Redman's latest, *Muddy Waters*



MARTIN BEDDOE

You could say he's a man of the world

And now for the good news — after years in the twilight zone, Peter Green is back, and playing that sweet blues guitar again. Nigel Williamson reports

We live in the era of the comeback, but few have been more emotional than the return of Peter Green, the founder of Fleetwood Mac. Once one of the most feted guitarists in British rock, Green became the ultimate acid casualty, and spent time over a period of years in mental hospitals and clinics undergoing electro-convulsive therapy. He gave away much of his money and slept rough. His wildly unpredictable behaviour was splashed across the tabloid press and he acknowledges that his illness was brought on by hallucinogenic drugs which his delicate mental equilibrium could not handle.

Today Green is 50, and lives in semi-rural Surrey with caring friends who have helped him inch his way back towards normality. His behaviour is no longer frightening, although he remains eerily eccentric. Last summer he began a tentative comeback with a festival appearance in Guildford and a few low-key dates in Germany. Now he is embarking on a major tour of Britain for the first time in nearly two decades.

The first thing you notice on meeting Green is the delicacy of his handshake. "I have to look after my fingers because I'm supposed to play a bit," says the man who B.B. King once described as the only white guitarist — Clapton included — who sent shivers up his spine.

The modesty is genuine. He complains that promoters insist on billing "the legendary Peter Green" above his band, the Splinter Group, and he looks forward to renewed success so that his name can be dropped. "That's what

happened before. It was originally called Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac — but when we made it big my name disappeared."

And they were big. By 1969, after a string of hits such as *Black Magic Woman* and *Man of the World*, Fleetwood Mac were voted Britain's best band by readers of *New Musical Express*. But by May the following year it was not only Green's name which had disappeared. "It was a freedom thing. I wanted to go and live on a commune in Germany. In the end I never did, but I had to get away. Acid had a lot to do with it."

The drugs tipped Green over the edge, into what was eventually diagnosed as schizophrenia. He stopped making music, gave his guitars away (many of his most treasured possessions ended up in an Oxfam shop) and went into a steep and rapid decline. He was eventually committed to hospital, but today tells the harrowing story dispassionately. "I was throwing things around and smashing things up. I smashed the car windscreen. The police took me to the station and asked me if I wanted to go to hospital. I said yes because I didn't feel safe going back anywhere for it."

What followed was a nightmare. "They gave me tranquillisers and I didn't really know much about it. It was a struggle just to stay awake. You don't know what you are doing. You don't feel alive."

The man who once horrified his business managers by giving away

most people would describe as completely normal." "I still hear voices in my head," he says. "It is only one voice, a woman I met in the hospital. There were some scary people there and she is pretty heavy, but I haven't heard her for a bit."

When he made it back from the brink, he started to play the guitar for the first time in years. "It hurt my fingers at first and I am still learning," Green says. "What I have discovered is simplicity. Back to basics. I used to worry and make things very complicated. Now I keep it simple."

The next step was a band. Among others, the veteran session drummer Cozy Powell and guitarist Nigel Watson, Reynolds's brother, were enlisted. Now, Green seems to be as contented as a man who has been to hell and back can be. He is affable and clearly enjoys playing again. "It isn't work," he says. "Work and music don't mix. It has to be pleasure or else I can't do it."

The man who once horrified his business managers by giving away

16 pills a day. One day he decided to stop

most of his fortune says that today he has no idea what is worth; the royalties are still rolling in but he leaves others to take care of the finances. "I'm told that I have enough and I have started collecting guitars," he says. "If I want a new one I can go out and buy it and if I want to buy a new car I can."

Sadly, he has not yet returned his songwriting — "I don't feel I have anything I need to say in a song" — and he is also ambivalent about the handful of his classics which the new band performs. "We do *Albatross*, *Black Magic Woman* and *Green Manilishi*, but I only play the rhythm on *Albatross*," he says. "I don't want it to be Fleetwood Mac again."

His natural indifference means that Green finds it hard to cope with being treated as a rock legend. "So far it has been OK but I haven't really been back long enough to say."

There will be a live album from the new tour, "mostly blues stuff I enjoy doing, things like *Goin' Down* and a couple of Robert Johnson songs". But Green then resurrects a 1960s chestnut, much debated in student union bars of the time. "White men can't really play the blues," he says adamantly. When pressed, he concedes that Clapton "doesn't do badly", but seems incredulous that his own work should be rated alongside the great black American guitarists.

Finally, given what he has been through, would he turn back the clock? "There would be no point," he says. "I'd only do the same things all over again."

• Peter Green and the Splinter Group play the Shepherds Bush Empire on Sunday



"White men can't really play the blues," says Peter Green, a legendary exception to his own rule



Tina Turner: continuing to defy the passage of time

Icon for all tastes

Tina Turner
Wembley Arena

THE dresses grow shorter as the stilettos get higher as she grows older. In another three years she will qualify for the free bus pass but Tina Turner continues to defy the passage of time, scornful critics and all known logic.

She appeals to several different audiences: mainstream rockers, the old soul crowd and those drawn by the appeal of the feminist icon — the woman who 20 years ago walked out on an abusive marriage, deep in debt and living on food stamps, who came back from rock bottom to scale the peaks and prove that sisters can do it for themselves.

Thus it is no surprise that she can still sell out Wembley Arena for three successive nights. She came on stage blowing kisses and screeching like an overexcited teenager, and at 57 she is blessed with more energy than many half her age. She went straight into *River Deep, Mountain High* while the huge screen behind her showed footage of her belting out the song on *Ready Steady Go!* or some such show 30 years ago. Amazingly, she looks better today than she did then, and whether it is HRT, cosmetic surgery or some secret magic elixir hardly matters.

Yet she doesn't dance quite as frenetically as of old and there was a major shock in store. At one point a high stool appeared and she sat down through four entire songs. Musically that was the most satisfying segment of the show. Her voice does not have the depth of Aretha Franklin's, but there is a fine, gritty blues power when she sings such soul classics as *Let's Stay Together* and *I Can't Stand the Rain*, and the voice is at its best when she sings her flailing body.



REDMAN
Muddy Waters
(Def Jam/Mercury 533 470)
£15.49

RAP has become such an integral part of pop this year that you hardly notice it as such among the catchy choruses and upbeat messages of songs by the Fugees or Spice Girls. But the hardcore stuff still has a somewhat jarring effect on ears not tuned in to the tongue-twisting jargon and spleenetic aggression of its more macho protagonists.

Although New York rapper Redman remains stuck in the second division, he is wittier than many. His key preoccupation, however, is with the apparently limitless wonders of smoking dope, a theme which acts like magnetic north on the compass guiding him through *Muddy Waters*. On tracks such as *Whatever Man*, *Smoke Buddah* and *Rollin'* (which recalls the old *Rawhide* theme), what he says as man's right to take the weed is vigorously upheld. Small wonder, perhaps, that the

numbering of the titles on the cover has got rather muddled, with the majority failing to correspond to the actual tracks on the CD.

PICTURE HOUSE
Shine Box
(Koch International 3361)
£14.49

THE much-fancied but as yet little-heard group Picture House has been talked up as an Irish version of Crowded House. And on the surface the 12 songs on their debut *Shine Box* lend some weight to the suggestion. But in the slippery world of "quality adult pop" it is a thin line between the artful statements of Neil Finn and the bland tunesmithery of, say, Phil Collins.

The fact that singer Dave Browne's voice sounds curiously like that of Collins on tracks such as *Worldwide TV* and *I Know Better Now* is not especially helpful to their case.

ALBUMS

More damaging is the saccharine refrain of *Don't Believe Me* and the twee lyric of *Do I Believe You*. Even when they strive to make a more thoughtful point, as in the Ray Davies-influenced *Pan Club*, the effect tends to be rather less clever than intended.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Club Mix 97
(Polygram TV 533 20; two discs)
£15.99

TIME was when these dance compilations were peopled entirely by acts that only specialists had heard of. But as the dance scene continues its march towards mainstream acceptance, it is beginning to throw up names and numbers that actually mean something to the rest of us.

You could not ask for a better start than the Prodigy's recent chart-topper *Breathe*, and no one could call artists such as Underworld, the Shamen and Dina Carroll one-hit wonders. The signs are that dance is going to be

the sound of the coming year, which would make *Club Mix 97* an especially timely collection but for the fact that these tracks were all released in 1996 or earlier.

STINA NORDENSTAM
Dynamite
(East West 0630-15605)
£15.49

THE photograph on the back of *Dynamite* makes her look like the villain in a Stephen

King story, and Swedish singer Stina Nordenstam does little to dispel the impression on her moody and frequently unsettling third album. Plectrums scrape guitar strings like chalk drawn across a blackboard on *Under Your Command* while violin and cello add a quaintly baroque touch to the title track.

But it is Nordenstam's voice — a sound like icicles tinkling in the first cold breeze of dawn

— that grips the attention as she half-sings, half-whispers her English lyrics in a bizarrely lilting, Scandinavian accent that makes Björk's efforts sound like received pronunciation.

"Under your command/Did I not do well?/Was not my record fine?" she asks like a child offering a pale pretty but utterly inscrutable picture for approval. Of course your record is fine, sweetheart, but an appearance on *Top of the Pops* could be a while in coming.

DAVID SINCLAIR

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

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The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater has been designed to make travelling with children a more comfortable experience.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading psychologist to investigate family travel. The report identified that although it may not be possible to change children's behaviour, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful journeys.

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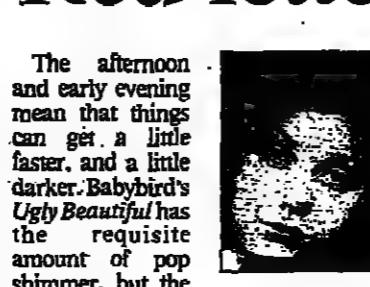
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Closing date for entries is first post Friday January 17, 1997.

THE TIMES
TOYOTA
picnic
TOKEN 6

From early morning to late at night, it's been a great year for pop-pickers

Red-letter day



CAITLIN MORAN

How best to sum up a whole year's worth of music in a few hundred words? I know — compress the glories of 1996 into a hypothetical day of ear-frazzling record joy!

We start at sunrise, 8am, and in need of the jangly bliss of the Bluetones' *Expecting to Fly*, with its Byrdsian harmonies and witty insouciance. Similar breeziness comes from Dodgy's *Glastonbury-on-vinyl*. *Free Peace Sweet* and Suede's zestful *Coming Up*. Now we're up to lunch. What better way to speed the digestion of a crisp sandwich and a bag of frittered. Crunchie bars than Gabrielle's astonishingly under-rated *Gabrielle*. OK, she didn't spend that long on the title, but every other detail is as meticulous as the vision is sweeping. The songs that weren't released as singles are even better than the ones that were.

Yet she doesn't dance quite as frenetically as of old and there was a major shock in store. At one point a high stool appeared and she sat down through four entire songs.

Musically that was the most satisfying segment of the show. Her voice does not have the depth of Aretha Franklin's, but there is a fine, gritty blues power when she sings such soul classics as *Let's Stay Together* and *I Can't Stand the Rain*, and the voice is at its best when she sings her flailing body.

The afternoon and early evening mean that things can get a little faster, and a little darker. *Ugly Beautiful* has the requisite amount of pop shimmer, but the surface breaks frequently into a world of lop-sided beats and fractured loops. Babybird's American counterpart, Beck, did much the same thing on his *Delay*, but more twisted and feverish.

Things get darker, stickier and more frantic on *StrangeLove's Love and Other Demons*. Full of gothic grandeur, elegant shivers and almost incoherent rage,

your spine with a deluge of break-beats. Then, when you've got back from the stereo to sit through your fags and beans, stick the Fugees' *The Score* on and spend a velvet hour smoking your fag and wondering what a faggie is.

It's midnight now, and you better to help you

through it than the Aloof, and a trio with more come-downs than a charity parachutist. *The Sinking* is the second finest of all the fine records of 1996 — while being breathlessly modern and sleek with glossy samples and thunderous loops, it also seems suspended and out of time.

As it's past 1am now, it's time to play the greatest album of 1996. So the Divine Comedy's *Conscience* returns to the stereo it has roosted on all this year. Thrill again to the way *All Through the Long and Sleepless Night* paces the same small, frustrated circle. Feel your eyes fill with tears as *Songs of Love* — a song as beautiful, delicate and whole as a really wonderful pie — turns the theme music from *Father Ted* into the greatest reason for living. Jump up and down to *Something for the Weekend* and *Becoming Like Alfie*.

CHANGING TIMES

Whether building work is construction or alteration

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Marchday Holdings Ltd
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward
Judgment December 11

Work carried out on an existing building could amount to more than its conversion, reconstruction, alteration or enlargement so as to be zero-rated under the Value Added Tax Act 1993.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment by a majority. Lord Justice Ward dissenting, dismissed an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from the dismissal by Mr Justice Laws ([1996] STC 848) of their appeal against a decision of a VAT tribunal in favour of Marchday Holdings Ltd.

Mr Nigel Fleming, QC, for the commissioners; Mr Roderick Cordona, QC, and Miss Perdita Cargill-Thompson for Marchday.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the tribunal had allowed the company's appeal against a decision of the commissioners regarding the treatment for value-added tax purposes of a construction project carried out by the company at 44-52 Banner Street, City of London.

The question at issue concerned the entitlement of the company to input tax credit which depended on whether the supply to which it was attributable, namely, the supply of a major interest in, or in any part of the building, was zero-rated under item 5 of group 4 of Schedule 5 to the VAT Act 1993.

That depended on whether the company was a "person constructing a building" within item 1 or whether the case fell within the exclusion in note 1A to item 1. The commissioners held that it fell within the exclusion and was therefore standard-rated, and the tribunal first that it did not fall within the exclusion and was zero-rated.

Where a supply was zero-rated within section 16 of the 1993 Act the consequences, by section 16(1), were that no tax would be charged on the supply, but in all other respects it would be treated as a taxable supply. The result was that the taxpayer would be entitled to credit in respect of input tax upon supplies made to him in connection with the construction of the building.

tion with zero-rated supplies made by him.

Section 16(2) provides: "A supply of goods or services is zero-rated by virtue of this subsection if the goods or services are of a description for the time being specified in Schedule 5 to this Act or the supply is of a description for the time being so specified."

The relevant part of Schedule 5 was group 8, the material items of which were:

"The granting by a person constructing a building of a major interest in, or in any part of the building..."

"The supply in the course of the construction or demolition of any building..."

Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

LORD JUSTICE WARD, dissenting, said that nowhere did the tribunal ask the question which was the prerequisite for treating the supplies as zero-rated: was the case truly one of the construction of a building?

The answer was in *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Vivo Gas Appliances Ltd* ([1983] STC 519, 823), where Lord Diplock, LJC, said:

"...construction means erecting

the building as a whole and

"demolition means destroying it as a whole..."

That was a very much a question of fact, degree and impression.

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Law Report December 20 1996

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

Queen's Bench Division

EC principles do not apply to domestic law

Regina v Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and Another, Ex parte First City Trading and Others
Before Mr Justice Laws
Judgment November 29

The fundamental principles of European Community law as formulated by the European Court of Justice such as equal treatment and non-discrimination, requiring decision-makers to treat like cases alike unless there existed an objective justification to discriminate.

In deciding whether the Community rule applied to the scheme, his Lordship had first to consider what was the correct test by which to resolve the question.

Mr Green relied on the European Court of Justice decision in *Case C-3/92 R v MAFF* ([1994] ECR I-1955), his Lordship did not understand the court to imply any proposition of principle wider than that the protection of fundamental Community rights bound member states when they implemented Community law.

If the fundamental principles of Community law enjoyed as wide a scope as did article 7 provisions of the Treaty, then the court had to consider what was the correct test by which to resolve the question.

Mr Green also relied on *R v Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Hamble Fisheries* ([1995] 2 All ER (1994) 7) for the proposition that where the court held that the German national law of copyright fell within the scope of the application of article 7(1) of the EC Treaty which prohibited discrimination on the ground of nationality.

Mr Green also relied on *R v Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Ex parte Hamble Fisheries* ([1995] 2 All ER (1994) 7) for the proposition that where the court held that the German national law of copyright fell within the scope of the application of article 7(1) of the EC Treaty which provided:

"The common organisation of agricultural markets... shall exclude any discrimination between producers or consumers within the Community."

Mr Parker submitted that the general principles of Community law applied only where the de-

scription or the act complained of was taken or done in the exercise of a power, or the fulfilment of a duty imposed by Community law; a narrower test than the test for the application of the Treaty provisions themselves: see *Cases 201 and 202/85 Klarsen v Sacré et D'Eau a l'Agriculture et la Viticulture* ([1986] ECR 347).

In Case C-3/92 R v MAFF, Ex parte Bostock ([The Times May 11, 1994] [1994] ECR I-1955), his Lordship did not understand the court to imply any proposition of principle wider than that the protection of fundamental Community rights bound member states when they implemented Community law.

On the other hand a Community institution or member state might take measures which it was authorised or obliged to take by force of the law of the Community.

The second situation primarily included measures which Community law required, such as, for example, law made as wide a scope as did article 7 provisions of the Treaty, in respect of discrimination on the ground of nationality.

In the first situation, the measure was in effect a function of the law of Europe, although its locality might be constrained by it.

In the second the measure was necessarily a creature of the law of Europe.

Treaty law was in the shape of a command and might intrude into areas previously free of any legal controls, because of the sovereign nature of the legislation.

It was by no means self-evident that their contextual scope had to be the same as that of the Treaty provisions relating to discrimination or equal treatment, which were not part of the general principles of Community law.

The common organisation of agricultural markets... shall exclude any discrimination between producers or consumers within the Community."

Mr Parker submitted that the general principles of Community law applied only where the de-

vice of Community Treaty provisions. Even so, it might affect the operation of the common market and accordingly be held to be "within the scope of application of the Treaty" as in *Phil Collins*.

That was by no means the same thing as it being done under powers or duties conferred or imposed by Community law.

On the other hand a Community institution or member state might take measures which it was authorised or obliged to take by force of the law of the Community.

The second situation primarily included measures which Community law required, such as, for example, law made as wide a scope as did article 7 provisions of the Treaty, in respect of discrimination on the ground of nationality.

Precisely because the fundamental principles elaborated by the European Court were not vouchsafed by the Treaty, there was no legal space for their application otherwise than in pursuance of Treaty rights and obligations.

It followed that in the first situation described there was no question of the application of the Community's internal fundamental principles.

The position was altogether different where a measure was adopted pursuant to Community law, that was the second situation. Then the internal law of the European Court applied. Decisions of the member states were subject to the Community's internal law when, to the extent that they took so as to implement Community law, or reasonably had to rely on it.

If the doctrine of equal treatment was to be sharply distinguished from law made by a court of limited jurisdiction, such as the European Court, the legitimacy of that law depended upon its being elaborated by the court within the confines of the power with which it was already endowed. Its writ could not run where it could not before.

The European Court had no inherent jurisdiction. Its authority derived solely from the Treaties and although its decisions were as a matter of English law supreme,

an advertisement in any newspaper... poster or similar publication or (c) any goods or services in connection with the preparation of the above.

The issue on appeal was the meaning of (c). On assessing the legislative history of the provision his Lordship was satisfied that the purpose of item 8 was to assist charities to acquire the services of publication of advertisements from a third-party supplier. It was not to help promote in-house advertising.

Item 8(c) zero-rated goods or services supplied in connection with the publication of an advertisement qualifying under (b) and not just with its preparation.

Group 1

EDUCATION

Times guide to the top research universities

John O'Leary explains how research teams have been graded and how to read the ratings

Official ratings published today by Britain's research universities, produced by subject specialists for the four main education funding councils, will make or break the reputations of thousands of academics and affect the budgets of whole universities. It includes a new grade for research of international excellence.

Panels of leading researchers in 69 subjects

have spent much of the past year judging their colleagues' work. The membership was drawn from learned societies, subject associations and other expert groups.

The assessments, the first for four years, graded research teams on a seven-point scale. This ranged

from 5th departments, with a majority of work reaching levels of international excellence to those with a rating of 1, which were found to have virtually no research of national significance.

The listing below covers only those in the top two categories. Departments that did badly are,

therefore, not listed. Universities and colleges could enter as many as or few staff as they chose to have assessed, but the proportion entered will have implications for future funding levels.

Those entering at least 95 per cent of staff are marked A, 80-94 per cent B, 60-79 per cent C, 40-59

per cent D, 20-39 per cent E and below 20 per cent F. The third column of figures shows the number of "research active" staff, expressed as full-time equivalent posts.

● The full report of the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise is available, price £15, from External Relations, HEFCE, Northavon House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QD.

Subject & university

Grade

Number entered

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Royal Postgraduate Medical School

Institute of Cancer Research

A — Medical Laboratory Sciences

B — Medical Physics

Oxford

A — Clinical Laboratory Sciences

B — Clinical School of Pathology

Cambridge

London School of Hygiene &

Tropical Medicine

Sheffield

Nottingham

COMMUNITY-BASED CLINICAL SUBJECTS

Cambridge

King's College — Institute of Psychiatry

London

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

University College London

A — Hospital-Based Clinical Subjects

Oxford

Imperial College — National Heart and Lung Institute

University College London — Institute of Ophthalmology

Royal Postgraduate Medical School

Edinburgh

Cambridge

University College London — Institute of Neurology

Exeter

University College London — Institute of Child Health

CLINICAL DENTISTRY

UCLD Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals

University College London — Eastern Dental Institute

Manchester

PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES

Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine

AHISTORY

University College London

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

Birmingham

Cambridge

Durham

Oxford

Sheffield

Liverpool

PHARMACY

Nottingham

Sheffield

Manchester

Institute of Cancer Research

School of Pharmacy

Nottingham

NURSING

King's College London

OTHER STUDIES AND PROFESSIONS ALLIED TO MEDICINE

Endocrinology (Wellcome)

Uterus (Gynaecological Sciences)

Wales, Cardiff

Loughborough

Surgey (Toxicology)

Neurosciences

Oxford

Cambridge

Durham

Leeds

Nottingham

Sheffield

University College London

Bath

Glasgow (Molecular Genetics)

AGRICULTURE

Reading (Plant Sciences)

Newcastle upon Tyne

Sheffield

The Queen's Belfast

Nottingham

Food Science and Technology

Nottingham

CAMBRIDGE

Imperial College, London

Edinburgh

Nottingham

Oxford

Edinburgh

Leeds

Nottingham

Southampton

PURE MATHEMATICS

Warwick

Imperial College, London

Cambridge

Edinburgh

Bath

Edinburgh

Nottingham

Leeds

Nottingham

Sheffield

Nottingham

Southampton

pure Mathematics

Applied Mathematics

Cardiff

Leeds

Bath

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Applied Mathematics

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RACING: SURVEY FINDS GROWING TIDE OF RECRUITS BELIEVES IN FUN BEFORE PROFIT

New owners bridge class divide

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

RACEHORSE ownership is no longer just a rich man's hobby. The Sport of Kings is fast becoming the sport of working people, attracted by the excitement and fun of the Turf.

The socio-economic profile of people with horses in training has shifted towards John Major's vision of a classless society with more blue-collar workers involved, according to a survey conducted for the British Horseracing Board (BHB) and Weatherbys.

During the past two years alone, the proportion of racehorses owned by social classes



Nap: HAY DANCE
(3.50 Hereford)
Next best: Mighty Moss
(3.40 Uttoxeter).

C1, C2, D and E — ranging from tycoots and shop assistants to bar staff and dustmen — has increased from 29 per cent to 37 per cent, while professional people have cut back their equine interests.

Women also find it increasingly attractive to see their colours carried on the Turf. In 1996, 30 per cent of new owners were women whereas in 1978 there was only 18 per cent.

"The vast majority of owners pay for racehorses from earned income. If you go back 20 years that is something you were seeing less of," Lee Richardson, the BHB's marketing director, said.

"Owners in the vast major-

SOUND MAN (left) is unlikely to run in the Perpetual King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day despite being among the 11 acceptors announced yesterday (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

Edward O'Grady, his trainer, said:

"Sound Man is an unlikely runner. He

is in great form, but will go for the

Comet Chase at Ascot on February 5.

and probably won't run again before then." Jenny Pitman has left in Nathaniel Lad despite his poor effort over hurdles at Bangor on Wednesday.

One Man is 138 on with William Hill to repeat last year's victory for Gordon Richards. Other prices: 4-1 Rough Quest, 10-1 Barton Bank, 12-1 Mr Mulligan, Strong Promise. Trying Again (D Gondofro).

The acceptors are: Alain (trained by F Doumen, France), Barton Bank (D Nicholson), Couldnt Be Better (C Brooks), Mr Mulligan (N Chancie), Nathaniel Lad (Mrs J Pitman), Oasis Regrets (Miss H Knight), One Man (G Richards), Rough Quest (T Casey), Sound Man (E O'Grady, Ireland), Strong Promise (G Hubbard), Trying Again (D Gondofro).

ity of cases are working people. They earn income and this is one way they choose to spend that income," he added.

A typical example of the new-breed of owner involves a group of Metropolitan Police officers who formed the Silver and Blue Racing Club so they could afford a horse.

While low levels of prize-money in Britain remain a primary concern of owners, the survey reveals that the trend has prompted the BHB to target working men's

cubs and company social clubs to tap the potential source of new owners. Trainers will also be encouraged to visit local golf clubs because golf remains the most popular leisure pursuit of racehorse owners.

Prospect of excitement and fun — rather than financial reward — is the lure for most people.

Among established owners surveyed, 86 per cent offered excitement and fun as the main reason for continuing to have a horse — compared to 68 per cent two years ago when the first BHB-Weatherbys survey was conducted.

The insight into owners' prospect of excitement and fun — rather than financial reward — is the lure for most people.

money will always be an important fact, but this survey highlights it is just one of the factors," Richardson added.

A longstanding interest in horses and racing were other reasons given for having a horse in training — plus the dream of owning a champion like Desert Orchid or Dancing Brave.

The insight into owners'

LINCHFIELD STAKES

THUNDERER
11.45 Harlequin Walk, 12.15 Night Sceptre, 12.45 Zehid, 1.15 Threeplay, 1.45 King Harmony, 2.15 Father Dan, 2.45 Feather Bed, 3.15 STAR TALENT (nap). Our Newmarket Correspondent: 11.45 Maneater.

GOING: STANDARD SIS.
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST.

11.45 ATROPOS HANDICAP (Div 1; 2Y-7; 1m 20') (14 runners)

1 0005 MANASAR 5 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-0... T B McLaughlin 1
2 1505 BARNERS DAISLEY 79 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-1... A Clark 2
3 1943 HARLEQUIN WALK 24 (GB) 6 Pethers 5-0-1... D Ridge 4
4 2-425 FEATHER BED 49 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-2... A McPhee 1
5 1003 KING HARMONY 24 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-3... D Ridge 2
6 0500 RESTON TEA PARTY 100 (GB) 6 Pethers 3-0-1... C Ridge 3
7 0044 MEDLAND 17 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-1... W Ryan 1
8 0000 SAFFIRE 50 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-2... D Ridge 4
9 0000 GOLD MARCH 57 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-3... D Ridge 5
10 0000 RESTON TEA PARTY 100 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-4... D Ridge 6
11 0528 KOMODO 15 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-5... T Field 7
12 0000 GREAT SPIDER 56 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-6... D Ridge 8
13 0000 PREMIER STAR 707 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-7... N Collier 9
14 0000 PREMIER STAR 707 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-8... P McNeill 10
7-2 Harlequin Walk, 6-2 Baines Daugler, 5-1 Bellhouse, Keedey, 7-1 others

12.15 SARAH CHAPMAN 21ST BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1; 2Y-0; 2-2; 43.7; 1m 10')

1 0 FOXORD LAD 85 7 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-0... N Collier 1
2 0000 FROST KING 97 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-1... A Clark 2
3 0000 CAN CA CHARLIE 7 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-2... Mrs L Pethers 3
4 0000 VENUS 18 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-3... D Ridge 4
5 0000 NEVER GOOLY MOVER 71 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-4... D Ridge 5
6 0000 PASTORE 18 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-5... D Ridge 6
7 0000 PRINCESS SARAH 100 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-6... D Ridge 7
8 0000 PRINCESS SARAH'S TREASURE 118 (GB) 6 Pethers 4-0-7... D Ridge 8
9-4 Night Sceptre, 4-1 Haye Dance, Keggenay, 3-1 Zestful, 10-1 others

12.45 HOTSPUR AMATEUR RIDERS LIMITED STAKES (£1,390; fm 4f) (12)

1 0214 CRUSH TALK 17 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-0... J Dutton 1
2 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-1... Mrs L Pethers 2
3 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-2... Mrs L Pethers 3
4 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-3... Mrs L Pethers 4
5 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-4... Mrs L Pethers 5
6 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-5... Mrs L Pethers 6
7 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-6... Mrs L Pethers 7
8 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-7... Mrs L Pethers 8
9 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-8... Mrs L Pethers 9
10 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-9... Mrs L Pethers 10
11 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-10... Mrs L Pethers 11
12 0000 HOTSPUR 12 (GB) 6 Stakes 4-0-11... Mrs L Pethers 12
7-2 Zestful, 6-1 Hotspur, 5-1 Hotspur, 4-1 Zestful, 10-1 others

1.15 WITCH OF ENDOR CLAIMING STAKES (£2,150; fm 4f) (5)

1 0000 LADY TO PLEASE 7 (GB) 6 Miss H Knight 9-0-3... D Ridge 1
2 0000 WITCH OF ENDOR 7 (GB) 6 Miss H Knight 9-0-4... D Ridge 2
3 0000 HEAVENLY MESS 7 (GB) 6 Mrs J Pitman 9-0-5... W Ryan 3
4 0000 WHIPPER 24 (GB) 6 Mrs J Pitman 9-0-6... D Ridge 4
5 0000 WHIPPER 24 (GB) 6 Mrs J Pitman 9-0-7... D Ridge 5
6 0000 WHIPPER 24 (GB) 6 Mrs J Pitman 9-0-8... D Ridge 6
7 0000 WHIPPER 24 (GB) 6 Mrs J Pitman 9-0-9... D Ridge 7
8 0000 WHIPPER 24 (GB) 6 Mrs J Pitman 9-0-10... D Ridge 8
9-4 Thursday, 4-1 Lady To Please 7-3 Heavenly Mess, 6-2 others

RESULTS FROM THE 12.15 LINCHFIELD STAKES

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Odds good to soft (soft in places)
12-40 (2m 6f) 1. Ambidextrous 1.
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Cuckoo, 2-1

Managing to survive on the merry-go-round



Johan Cruyff put it well and wisely the other day. "I've always said that it wasn't out of the ordinary for a manager to come to a club and build a great team," he said. "It's enough to have good players and a little luck. As against that, to keep the club on top is always a little problematic."

Cruyff should know. Though Barcelona parted company with him this year after a long, torrid, contentious, sporadically successful reign, he remains in enormous demand. He could go back to his beloved Ajax if he wants, at the end of the season, when Louis van Gaal leaves.

Franz Beckenbauer, Cruyff's old friend and rival from the great days of Total Football, would like him at Bayern Munich. Spanish and Italian clubs are interested. This, despite the way he was penalised at loggerheads with Barcelona's president, Josep Lluis Nunez, and often with such stars as Michael Laudrup and Hristo Stoichkov.

Even when Cruyff was in charge at Ajax, when young prodigies such as Marco van Basten worshipped him, his autocratic ways were such that Frank Rijkaard could not wait to get away.

So the myth and mystery of the manager remain. What should he do, what does he do? Should he crack the whip like Cruyff or Brian Clough? Should he be out on the training field, paying infinite attention to detail, as Roy Hodgson is doing in Milan with Internazionale, whose defence keeps collapsing just the same?

"Kind, but with a strong hand," Vittorio Pozzo, the great Italian player who won two World Cups between the wars, used to say. "If let them make mistakes, I lose my authority." And he was often out on the training pitch.

Clough rarely was. As often as not, he might simply show up in the dressing-room just before a game. "Have you ever been punched in the stomach, young man?" he

asked his unlucky young centre forward, Nigel Jenison, now at Oxford United, on one such occasion: then suited the action to the words.

When he did turn up at the training ground, Peter Shilton — due to celebrate his 1,000th League appearance when he plays for Leyton Orient on Sunday — said that the impact was great. "It was attitude training."

With his remarkable partnership with the late Peter Taylor resembling nothing so much as football's version of *'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*', Clough had success with both Derby County and Nottingham Forest, none at all at Leeds United, where the players drove him out after 44 days, nor at Brighton, where he demoralised the team. What works at one place

does not necessarily work at others. Thus Joe Kinnear, who has worked wonders at Wimbledon, is probably right to refuse lucrative offers and stay there. A kind of guerrilla general, he is utterly the right man for the job, defending club and team with sometimes excessive sensitivity.

When he mistakenly thought Gary Lineker had said Wimbledon were worth watching only on Cefax, Kinnear, feeling persecuted, embattled and unappreciated, was pushed to even greater effort on the training field and in the transfer market.

Blackburn Rovers, now, are to pay Sven Goran Eriksson a fortune to leave Sampdoria for Ewood Park. Will it be money well spent? Can Eriksson, for all his huge European experience, do more for

Blackburn than their modest, unambitious stopgap, the estimable Tony Parkes? And why, with all due respect, does Eriksson want to come to Blackburn at all, a club which could even drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, when the likes of Lazio would evidently be glad to have him back.

I have known and appreciated Eriksson for many years; a man of charm, honesty and competence. Blackburn clearly hope he will emulate Arsene Wenger, who has the same qualities and is doing remarkably well with a far-from-dazzling Arsenal team he took over with the season well advanced.

Recently, the coruscating Nigerian forward, Victor Ikpeba, paid tribute to Wenger, and the way he helped him at Monaco — just as George Weah has done.

What one can say, surely, is that every managerial career is finite, the triumphant exception that proves the rule being the remarkable Guy Roux, 30 years at

Auxerre, who actually won the French championship last season, and endlessly produces fine players. But managerial pressures are immense. If, on the Continent, the manager does not have to be a millionaire, he is often prey to pressures from fans and the media unknown in Britain.

Bill Shankly quit Liverpool while he was ahead. Alex Ferguson, ten years at Old Trafford, has, over the past couple of seasons, been prone to strange tactical errors and manifest mistakes in the transfer market.

"I never knew," Brian Mears, when he was chairman of Chelsea and Dave Sexton was no longer delivering the goods, said, "that managers need motivating too."

"You don't know what's going on in a club," Jesse Carver, the one English manager to win a postwar Italian championship, said. "No one does." He may have been right, for the myth and the mystery continue.

FOOTBALL

United disclaim reports of £20m bid for Batistuta

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MANCHESTER United have denied reports that they have made a world record offer of £20 million for Gabriel Batistuta, the Argentina and Fiorentina forward. *Corriere dello Sport*, the Italian newspaper, claimed yesterday that Martin Edwards, the United chairman and chief executive, faxed a bid to Florentina late last week.

United were also reported to have offered £7 million for Stefan Schwarz, the Sweden and former Arsenal midfield player, who also plays for Fiorentina. Vittorio Cecchi Gori, president of the Italian Cup holders, is said to be considering the approaches, despite having recently persuaded Batistuta, the club captain, to sign a new contract.

However, United issued an immediate and curt response to the stories. "It is absolute rubbish," Ken Ramsden, the Old Trafford press officer, said. It was a similar reaction to that of Robert Coar, the Blackburn Rovers chairman, after his club had been linked, also by *Corriere dello Sport*, to Rui Costa, the Portugal midfield player, and Lorenzo Amoruso, the Italian defender. They, too, play for Fiorentina.

"Rubbish," Coar said. Rovers reportedly having offered £11 million for Rui Costa, who played for Portugal during Euro 96, and £7 million for Amoruso. Apparently, the

moves had been authorised by Sven Goran Eriksson, the present coach of Sampdoria who will become Blackburn's manager during the summer.

Batistuta's contract takes him through to 2000, with an option until 2001, while Rui Costa has signed up until 2001. Though Batistuta's form is short of his best and the team is struggling in mid-table in Serie A, he is hugely popular with the supporters.

Fiorentina have also reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners'

Italy hope to play Northern Ireland, Ireland or Wales on January 22 in advance of the World Cup qualifying match with England in February. It will be the only chance Cesare Maldini, the new Italy manager, has to assess his team before the game at Wembley.

Cup, in which they play Benfica next year, and it is unlikely that supporters would forgive Ceschi Gori if he were to sell the club's prize asset.

Alan Shearer, of Newcastle United, David Seaman, of Arsenal, Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, and Peter Schmeichel and Gary Neville, the Manchester United pair, are to play for a Europe XI against an Africa XI in Lisbon on January 29. The match will open an under-17 youth tour-

ment between teams from both continents to raise money for various football projects in Africa. It will also launch the "European Year Against Racism" campaign, which has been organised by Uefa, the sport's governing body in Europe.

Christian Ziege, Jürgen Klinsmann and Andreas Möller, of Germany, Paolo Maldini and Alessandro del Piero, of Italy, and Alen Bokšić, of Croatia, will also feature in the Europe line-up.

Mike Newell, the Birmingham City forward, has joined West Ham United on a month's loan, with a view to a permanent move. Newell, formerly of Blackburn and Everton, cost Birmingham £70,000 when he left Ewood Park in the summer.

He scored only one goal in seven Nationwide League first division games before asking to go on the transfer list two months ago, after telling Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, that he was unable to settle in the Midlands. He could make his debut for West Ham against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tomorrow.

Bolton Wanderers have signed John Sheridan, the experienced Sheffield Wednesday mid-field player. Bolton have agreed to pay £180,000 for the Ireland international, with Wednesday receiving a further £25,000 if Bolton win promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

Sheridan, 32, who started his career at Leeds United, spent a recent loan spell at Burnley Park. He is expected to play in the first division game away to Swindon Town on Sunday.

Brian Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, is to take another look at Vlad Kinder, 26, the Slovakia left back, after he did well in a reserve match. Robson has already contacted Slovan Bratislava, Kinder's club. "I quite liked what I saw," Robson said. "There could be a deal for Vlad if he continues to impress."



Swimmers in the men's 200 metres freestyle make a splash at the start of the heats

Hickman set for stiff test

By CRAIG LORD

ORGANISERS of the British swimming championships might be wise to make sure that they have enough bottle to cope with the ambitions of James Hickman. That way, they might avoid a repeat of the French fiasco of February this year, when two world records by Denis Pankratov, of Russia, could not be ratified because organisers of the World Cup event had run out of drug-test vessels.

Voted Young Mancunian of the Year last month, Hickman, 20, yesterday set the pace at Pond's Forge pool in Sheffield with a British short-course record of 53.06sec in the

100 metres butterfly heats. He intends to add the world short-course record over 200 metres tomorrow (presently 53.06sec, against Pankratov's disallowed 52.34sec).

Shame, then, that for the last three of the four days of the championships, there will be no drug-testing. Should Hickman achieve his ambition, test equipment will have to be brought in within 24 hours for the record to count.

Hickman's good form, a continuation of the success he enjoyed in making finals at the Olympic Games, is testament to the job being done by Dave Calleja, his coach, at Stockport

Metro. His other charge is Graeme Smith, the bronze medal-winner in the 1,500 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

Smith yesterday withdrew from the final of the 1,500m after swimming the heats on the grounds that he is working to improve his sprint speed, essential if he is to stand a chance of a gold medal in Sydney 2000. He will avoid meeting Ian Wilson, winner of the silver medal at the European short-course championships last weekend, and concentrate on the 200 metres and 400 metres in Sheffield.

Results, page 34

Stockport see future in the Premiership

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

VICTORY over West Ham United on Wednesday night may have earned Stockport a place in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals, but David Jones, the Stockport manager, was not about to change his priorities after his Nationwide League second division team had enjoyed their moment of glory at Edgeley Park.

"It's a great feeling to have won, but I've always said that our immediate priority is to get out of the second division," Jones said after his team had achieved a memorable 2-1 success in their fourth-round replay, aided by a freakish goal by Iain Dowie, the West Ham striker. "We're very ambitious at this club and the next step after that would be the Premiership. That's what we're aiming for."

Southampton earned a quarter-final trip to Stockport with a 3-2 defeat of Oxford United in Wednesday's other fourth-round replay, despite the absence of Matthew Le Tissier with a thigh injury, while Manchester United did their championship chances little good with a 1-1 draw at Sheffield Wednesday.

Dowie set on lightening the load at Harrow

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

SPECTATORS filing into the Earlsmead ground of Harrow Borough pass a fallen, fallen floodlight pylon in the car park that is a fitting symbol of the Icis League club's plight in the lower reaches of the premier division.

"We had four 80ft pylons with 12 lamps on each that were erected about 23 years ago," Peter Rogers, the club's football director, said. "One of the directors was walking his dog first thing in the morning and noticed a gap in one corner. We were lucky.

The pylon fell when there was nobody about and there weren't any cars in the car park. It could have fallen on the pitch, the clubhouse or gardens on the side of the ground."

Adjusting the other pylons has enabled Harrow to carry on playing, but a structural engineer has now told the club that it must replace all the pylons. Even with insurance from the fallen pylon — a victim of gales and safety grants, the club may face a worrying shortfall.

To get the club out of the shadows on the field, Harrow have turned to Bow Dowie, the brother of Iain, the West Ham United striker. Dowie replaced Harry Manoe, a Harrow stalwart in his playing days, who had

finished eighth last year and he hadn't really changed the side. He felt the players weren't responding to him. He runs a big double-glazing firm and was very busy with his work, so he felt it was time to step away. He brought me to the club as coach last year and encouraged me to take the job."

The new manager is not short of things to do either. He combines working at Heathrow as an engineer for General Electric on British Airways' new Boeing 777 with acting as the FA head coach for Hertfordshire.

Dowie lined the team off the foot of the table on Saturday with a 1-0 win over Chertsey Town, having brought in Ian Rutherford, a striker, from Berkhamsted, and Justin Merritt, a full back, from Brackley. "I don't want anybody to feel comfortable," he said. "If players have a bad game, I want them to know that there are people fishing to get their place in the team."

Among the players he wants to make way is a 35-year-old centre half called Dowie. "I'm too close to it," he said. "I've always found it difficult to keep my mouth shut. Now I'm manager, it'll be even harder." With due modesty, however,

Club chairmen agree to league changes

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AN EXPECTED challenge to the restructuring of the Football League, from disenchanted clubs in the second and third divisions of the Nationwide League, fizzled out yesterday. The Football League's proposals, which include dismantling the six-strong board of directors and replacing it with an independently chaired nine-man body, were eventually given overwhelming support at an extraordinary general meeting in London.

Representatives of 69 of the 72 Nationwide League clubs voted the moves through, despite fears from many of the smaller clubs that they would be relinquishing too much power to their larger first division counterparts.

Gordon McKeag, 69, the league president and chairman of the present board, who will lose his chairmanship and will also stand down as president at the end of the season, said: "Change is inevitable. In many areas, it is not only desirable but necessary. Additional money in the game brings benefits, but it also brings dangers and problems. What might happen to a sport that has become solely dependent on outside sources if the money dries up?"

Even when Cruyff was in charge at Ajax, when young prodigies such as Marco van Basten worshipped him, his autocratic ways were such that Frank Rijkaard could not wait to get away.

So the myth and mystery of the manager remain. What should he do, what does he do? Should he crack the whip like Cruyff or Brian Clough? Should he be out on the training field, paying infinite attention to detail, as Roy Hodgson is doing in Milan with Internazionale, whose defence keeps collapsing just the same?

"Kind, but with a strong hand," Vittorio Pozzo, the great Italian player who won two World Cups between the wars, used to say. "If let them make mistakes, I lose my authority." And he was often out on the training pitch.

Clough rarely was. As often as not, he might simply show up in the dressing-room just before a game. "Have you ever been punched in the stomach, young man?" he

asked his unlucky young centre forward, Nigel Jenison, now at Oxford United, on one such occasion: then suited the action to the words.

When he did turn up at the training ground, Peter Shilton — due to celebrate his 1,000th League appearance when he plays for Leyton Orient on Sunday — said that the impact was great. "It was attitude training."

With his remarkable partnership with the late Peter Taylor resembling nothing so much as football's version of *'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*', Clough had success with both Derby County and Nottingham Forest, none at all at Leeds United, where the players drove him out after 44 days, nor at Brighton, where he demoralised the team. What works at one place

does not necessarily work at others. Thus Joe Kinnear, who has worked wonders at Wimbledon, is probably right to refuse lucrative offers and stay there. A kind of guerrilla general, he is utterly the right man for the job, defending club and team with sometimes excessive sensitivity.

When he mistakenly thought Gary Lineker had said Wimbledon were worth watching only on Cefax, Kinnear, feeling persecuted, embattled and unappreciated, was pushed to even greater effort on the training field and in the transfer market.

Blackburn Rovers, now, are to pay Sven Goran Eriksson a fortune to leave Sampdoria for Ewood Park. Will it be money well spent?

Can Eriksson, for all his huge European experience, do more for

Blackburn than their modest, unambitious stopgap, the estimable Tony Parkes? And why, with all due respect, does Eriksson want to come to Blackburn at all, a club which could even drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, when the likes of Lazio would evidently be glad to have him back.

I have known and appreciated Eriksson for many years; a man of charm, honesty and competence. Blackburn clearly hope he will emulate Arsene Wenger, who has the same qualities and is doing remarkably well with a far-from-dazzling Arsenal team he took over with the season well advanced.

Recently, the coruscating Nigerian forward, Victor Ikpeba, paid tribute to Wenger, and the way he helped him at Monaco — just as George Weah has done.

What one can say, surely, is that every managerial career is finite, the triumphant exception that proves the rule being the remarkable Guy Roux, 30 years at

Auxerre, who actually won the French championship last season, and endlessly produces fine players. But managerial pressures are immense. If, on the Continent, the manager does not have to be a millionaire, he is often prey to pressures from fans and the media unknown in Britain.

Bill Shankly quit Liverpool while he was ahead. Alex Ferguson, ten years at Old Trafford, has, over the past couple of seasons, been prone to strange tactical errors and manifest mistakes in the transfer market.

"I never knew," Brian Mears, when he was chairman of Chelsea and Dave Sexton was no longer delivering the goods, said, "that managers need motivating too."

"You don't know what's going on in a club," Jesse Carver, the one English manager to win a postwar Italian championship, said. "No one does." He may have been right, for the myth and the mystery continue.

Among the players he wants to make way is a

SAILING

Rig failure likely to put Tibbs at rear of fleet

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE BT Global Challenge fleet suffered its first serious rig failure three-fifths of the way through the Southern Ocean on Wednesday night when *Concert*, skippered by Chris Tibbs, fell off a wave and lost her mast from about 20ft above the deck.

The failure occurred as the yacht was going to windward in about 30 knots of wind on starboard tack in steep seas and snowstorms. At the time she was under triple-reefed mainsail and staysail, about 2,000 miles east of her destination of Wellington, in New Zealand, and lying in fourth place.

The events of Wednesday are an unwelcome reminder for Roberts and Chay Blyth, the race director, of the last race, when seven yachts experienced problems with a faulty rigging screw in the Southern Ocean and one, *British Steel II*, was dismasted.

Just like *British Steel* before her, *Concert* is now motorising to the Chatham Islands, 420 miles southeast of Wellington, after having taken extra fuel on board from *Motorola*.

When she gets there, in around two weeks, she will refuel and then head for Wellington, where she will arrive about a week after the rest of the fleet and where a new mast will be fitted after being flown out from Plymouth.

According to Andrew Roberts, the race project director, who oversees the technical preparation of the yachts, the mast broke just above the first set of spreaders, which are 20ft above the deck, and then fell over the port side. There was a second break at the middle set of spreaders, 40ft up, and the crew were able to save the middle section after cutting away the top part.

The cause of the failure was a breakage in the intermediate shroud on the starboard side.

Race positions 37

A 12mm stainless steel wire running from the deck up to the middle spreaders. The fracture occurred just where the stay passes through the top spreaders.

Concert is expected to retire formally from this leg. Her performance under the rules of this event will be the same as the last yacht to arrive in Wellington, with another 15 per cent of that yacht's time added on. Even after her strong showing on the first leg it is taken into account, she is likely to find herself at the rear of the fleet.

Blyth himself was worried by the drama, but not unduly so. He said that the yachts have undergone the best possible preparation and every fault that is found is subsequently rectified. He added that it is partly because of the confidence that the crews have in their boats that they push them so hard — until something else fails.

In the wake of the incident on *Concert*, there were signs yesterday that several of the skippers have eased off a little, to make sure that they reach New Zealand in one piece.

Whitaker confirmed after-

wards that Welham will be his ride for the World Cup qualifier tomorrow, the centrepiece of the five-day programme.

Later, in the Bexton Rumford Stakes, James Fisher

found the extra turn of foot needed to win a class at Olympia when he and Renville relegated William Funnell, on Conker, to second place by more than two seconds.

"When you're fast on him, you know you're quick," Fisher said of the eight-year-old Renville, "but I hadn't expect-

ed to win by such a big margin."

Renville, whom Fisher has had since a four-year-old, has won 20 international classes this year.

Fisher, who was a member of the winning Nations' Cup

teams in Lisbon and Modena this year, is hoping his luck will hold for the World Cup qualifier tomorrow, in which he will ride Bowringer Queen.

The 14-year-old Irish mare,

who won the Geneva qualifier in 1994 and was eighth at Olympia last year, confirmed her form when finishing

fourth in the Turkey Stakes on Wednesday night after completing a double clear round.

With a clutch of in-form partnerships competing, including last year's winner, Luderger Beerbaum, of Germany, with Prianos, and Nick Skelton, with Dolles Girl — who were fifth and sixth in the main class on Wednesday night — Olympia, which traditionally has one of the most demanding courses on the circuit, looks set for a vintage World Cup qualifier.

Only 13 referees have declared their availability for duty tomorrow and the matches they have been awarded equate to their grading and experience, with the six cup games receiving preference.

The only good news for the WRU is that another pay dispute — that involving Scott Quinell, the Richmond back-

ward forward — appears to have been resolved. Quinell has been given a £10,000 sponsorship by Reebok, the official WRU sponsors, and will be available for selection by Wales in the new year.

They may also interest the selectors for the British Isles, who will take their largest ever playing party to South Africa next summer to contest the 13-match tour. The four home unions have agreed that 35 players should make the trip, five more than normal, echoing arrangements made on recent tours by New Zealand and South Africa.

From Colton, the Lions manager, will hope to field XV's nearly equivalent in strength in Saturday matches and mid-week games. "Our plan is to make two full teams plus additional men in key positions — hooker, prop, back-five, forward, scrum half and centre or wing," he said.

Bath have named Phil de Glanville, the England captain, in their XV to play

London Irish in the Pilkington Cup tomorrow. De Glanville missed England's game with Argentina last weekend with a thigh injury. Richard Butland comes in for the injured Mike Catt at stand-off half.

It is, for instance, for the

referee to determine what constitutes a dangerous tackle. The laws deem a chest-high tackle to be acceptable, whereas a head-high tackle or a tackle "above the line of the shoulders" is not; yet the difference between the two can be minimal. It is the referee who has to make an instant judgment.

There is an element of risk that each individual undertakes when he or she undertakes to participate in a sport. Indeed, each sport, to a greater or lesser degree, operates on the slippery edges of danger. The whizzing ball in tennis can be identified as a threatening missile; the golf course has its hazards; a sailor faces the swelling sea and other elements, as does the angler. It is of no use for one sport to point a finger at the perils of another. We know why we choose what we do.

In some cases, danger is the element that attracts people to a sport. Collision and speed are integral to rugby and the seductive combination accentuates the danger. Power and strength add to the appeal.

Certainly, one of the significant pieces of evidence in the recent case on which the Court of Appeal was asked to consider, was the fact that there were 25 collapses of the scrum during the game. This figure was far above the acceptable standard. High tackles may not be repeated as often as this nor committed necessarily by the same player, but high tackles, wherever the defining line is drawn, are unquestionably increasing in number. A dangerous accident, as they say, is waiting to happen. Upon whom lies the duty of care then? And who should decide?

This represents an example of the problems that lie ahead for a sport which was designed to be amateur and is no more. Dependent on goodwill and nurtured on what I still think of as a generosity of spirit, rugby thrived. No more can rugby rely on these qualities. It has been thrust, before its time, into the professional arena, and different attitudes are forced to prevail. A sterner mood is now prevalent.

As well as prompting an increase in their insurance premiums, the result of the court case ought to give the rugby authorities pause for thought. They should consider, in their increasingly confrontational sport, what should be a professional code of practice for players' safety.

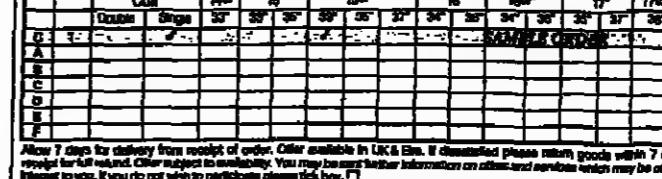
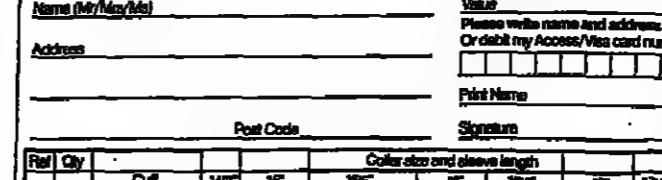
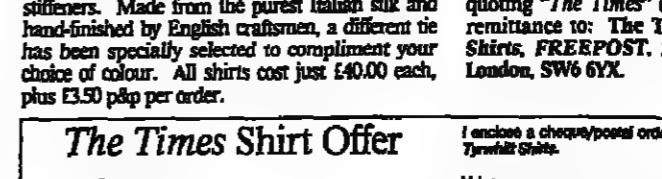
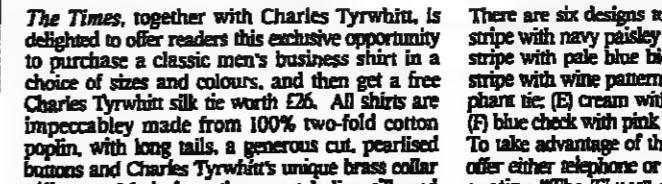
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Time to halt the maul

From Mr A. McIlwraith

Sir, During the recent University rugby match the referee

quite correctly penalised players for "crossing". By doing so, one player was, for however

short a time, preventing an opponent from tackling the man with the ball. This applied whether the obstruction was intentional or not.

Yet, in the same match, players were permitted to obstruct their opponents quite

deliberately and for long periods and remained unpenalised. I refer, of course, to what is now known as the maul, which prevents defenders from tackling the ball-carrier.

I believe this hits at the heart of the rugby football ethic and should be banned, and we should return to the procedure whereby an individual supported or otherwise

by his team-mates can take the ball forward in hand but, the instant his progress is halted, the ball should be put to ground and heeled back.

There may be those who will

say that this will slow the game, but I would suggest that

they look at film of old games in which the All Blacks were involved. They would see them joining a loose scrum

already bound onto each other and hooking ball, and often the man as well, back to the scrum half in very short order indeed. The ball would then travel very quickly to the backs while many opposing

teams were still floundering. It is all a matter of coaching and practice.

Yours faithfully,

STAN WEBER (President, The Running Sixes),

Flat 7, 1 St Mildreds Gardens, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent.

In the early days the

organiser, Chris Brasher, was

vehemently against payments

leading to favoured placing in the event. Yet, under the present regime, the rejection notice is accompanied by an invitation to run for one or two

countries who have places available to any runner who can guarantee raising £1,000 for their respective causes.

This is an unhealthy practice, and in fact dangerous, especially for the more elderly runner who could be more prone to accidents, e.g. twisted ankle over a discarded drinking bottle or an unexpected malady, after which persists in finishing the 26 miles, in order to honour his guarantee to the charity, could even endanger his life.

I do plead for the reintroduction of the previous consideration to the proven elderly club runner such as myself (78 years old, who completed two marathons, aged 66, in three hours 30 minutes, and who can now complete in five hours 30 minutes) has little chance of

acceptance against a "young" 65-year-old woman now taking almost six hours and who would be automatically accepted.

However, many veteran club runners feel aggrieved over the introduction of certain favourable methods, which can bring the organisers' charges of ageism and sexism, and even involve respectable charities in an unhealthy form of incentive.

Let me explain. One of the criteria used for automatic acceptance of runners aged over 65 is:

a. Men must prove they can complete a marathon in under four hours.

b. Women must prove they can complete in under six hours.

Hence, for example, an en-

Spur to Zimbabwe

From Mr Nigel Hill

Sir, You report (December 10)

that the captain of the England cricket team touring Zimbabwe described their third defeat in four one-day internationals as a "jinx".

It seems obvious to me that

his failure to acknowledge that

Zimbabwe had played the better game will do nothing to

improve the performance of his own team. On the contrary, his arrogance will only

encourage Zimbabwe to play even better and make another defeat more likely.

Yours faithfully,

ALISTAIR MCILWRAITH,

Benson, Blasbaval,

Lochmaddy,

Isle of North Uist.

Sports Letters may be sent

by fax to 077-782 5211.

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ICE HOCKEY

Britain hope for brighter future

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHANNON HOPE was prepared to accept yesterday that qualification for the Olympic Games is now unlikely, after the 3-3 draw with Switzerland on Wednesday night, but the Great Britain captain believes that the world championships can provide compensation.

"We are all disappointed that it looks unlikely we'll qualify for the Olympics, but the national team programme has come on a lot over the last few months," Hope said. "The players get little reward for playing, but the dedication they have shown proves they want to see the British game drive forward."

A British team has not reached the Olympics for 50 years, and the Swiss should beat Denmark at home tomorrow, thus reaching the tournament in February where five places of the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan, are on offer. But Britain, who would miss out despite not losing a game, are still confident that they can regain a place among the world's elite.

Hope believes Britain can win their world championship pool B competition in Poland in April. "I think, as a team, we have shown we are ready now to make it to pool A again," he said. "I expect us to get there."

Britain had a brief flirtation with pool A in 1994, but took some heavy beatings before finishing last. The next year, a lack of preparation and a clash with the end-of-season play-offs nearly saw them drop out of the second tier.

The situation has since improved under Peter Woods, the coach, and Nico Toomen, the technical director, who has arranged a training camp in Austria in April, before travelling on to the championships in Poland.

"Our preparation before has been to tell the players to get out of the bar at Wembley because you're off to the world championships," Toomen said. "That won't happen again. I don't care how much money it will cost, but we will be having a camp before the championships. We have to have the strongest preparation possible."

P W D L F A P
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LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

I had never used Manchester United gift-wrap until this year. But it's all right, actually; I'm not whingeing. The football thing was bound to affect my nearest and dearest in the long run and if they all get Manchester United shot glasses and Manchester United massage sandals for Christmas this year, they should just bear in mind how much worse it could have been. I mean, I did choose the best stuff, honest.

But the best stuff in the Old Trafford Megastore doesn't look so good when you get it home. It crumbles in the light of day. Damn. If only I could keep hold of simple, objective standards when I'm shopping. Were it on a display stand in Harvey Nichols in Leeds, you see, this little figurine of Ryan Giggs with "GIGGS" helpfully written on it would be a very tacky and unattractive item. But in the heady context of the Manchester United Megastore — a riot of hideous red and yellow motifs on golf umbrellas, baby-grows and beany hats — it appeared restrained and tasteful. "Admittedly, he looks more like Jack Nicholson, but hey, I'll have him anyway," this shopper declared, satisfied. "And what lovely Manchester United gift-wrap isn't it cheerful?"

Having visited the megastore, I now understand why football commentators use expressions like "set their stall out" and "shut up shop". Commerce is naked and pretty damned ugly at Old Trafford. Perhaps the famed merchandise turnover — a million quid a week can't be right, can it? — comes from mail order customers. Anyway, a lot of items had been reduced, which seemed odd just before Christmas. Baby slippers had been knocked down from £7 to £4, as if this made them more attractive. On the other hand, La Philosophie de Cantona (a slim volume) was a tip-top bargain, and I purchased two.

Yet punters were few, and at one point the only other customer was a local reporter, eagerly canvassing my boyfriend's opinion about the scandal of yet another Manchester United strip to be introduced after Christmas. Alas, she had chosen the wrong man. "Couldn't care less," he said, smiling enigmatically. "Football's not my thing at all." Naturally, she was confused. "But you're here," she reasoned. "You're wearing a red scarf."

Meanwhile, I toured the place notebook in hand, fighting a strange feeling of shrinking in size. You see, the twin emporia at Old Trafford (the megastore only a bit bigger than the non-mega one) stand in the shadow of the grey stadium and the cold, towering concrete is not only intimidating, it also keeps reminding you that this big impersonal club (turning its wealthy back against you)



Trick photography helps your correspondent to come face to face with a hero at the Old Trafford Megastore

the sentiment is potentially universal.

Not many people converged on Old Trafford the afternoon I visited the megastore. Perhaps the famed merchandise turnover — a million quid a week can't be right, can it? —

comes from mail order customers. Anyway, a lot of items had been reduced, which seemed odd just before Christmas. Baby slippers had been knocked down from £7 to £4, as if this made them more attractive. On the other hand,

La Philosophie de Cantona (a slim volume) was a tip-top bargain, and I purchased two.

Two carrier bags of stuff, I was only four feet tall; had I dallied longer beside the Manchester United hot-water bottle covers ("Shall I? Shan't I? Do I need one"), I might have snuffed out like a candle.

No, the best value at Old Trafford is the £5 trick Polaroid with the star of your choice, although when I scanned the pictures for the lovely Beckham I couldn't find him. "Which is Beckham?" I asked the man with the camera. "There," he said. "No, that's not him," I said with confidence. "It is," he said. "He just hasn't been airbrushed, so he doesn't look handsome. (I detected jealousy in this remark.)

Fickle-hearted as ever, I chose Cantona and Schmeichel and then posed pluckily against a blank wall, trying to look weak-kneed and overcome by the honour of the occasion. It backfired slightly. Hoping to gaze admiringly into Cantona's eyes, I miscalculated my own height and looked at the top of his head; hoping to point larkily at Schmeichel, I lost a finger behind a programme he was signing.

But my pictures are an excellent memento of Old Trafford sordidness, and also a rather good symbol for the whole business of football merchandise — being cheap yet a rip-off at the same time.

"Really they ought to get a design consultant," the boyfriend said at the end of our visit. It was one of those lovely understatements that you treasure for the rest of your life.

With religion: we ask for bread; they give us stones. We

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Guilty, yes, but she is not solely to blame

*ogether
n. boys*

Elizabeth Hurley is not the first actress to make a very bad film; nor, I suppose, will she be the last. But where she is undoubtedly alone is in having the blame for a disaster heaped entirely upon her shapely shoulders. This is most unfair. All sorts of people were very bad in *Samson and Delilah* (Sky 1).

Dennis Hopper, Diana Rigg and Daniel Massey are just three who will not sleep easily in their beds. Nicolas Roeg, who directed it, may never sleep again. Only Michael Gambon can shrug and walk away with his head high. His task was made easier by playing the very reasonable King of the Philistines, a man who believed his tongue should be cut out only in emergencies, and by the fact that most of his scenes were played opposite his ridiculously evil son, Prince Sidja. Next to the unorthodox Ben Becker, Gambon was bound to look good.

Delilah (a heavily kohled Hurley) had relatively little to do in this tiresomely protracted version of the story. Some rather demure sex scenes in a tent, a bit of flirting with General Tariq (Hopper) and she was off to her several thousand pieces of silver. "A girl's got to look to her future," she explained, pausing only to kiss Tariq and make a mental note to cut out the tongue of whoever bestowed that lime upon her.

Much criticism has been heaped upon Hurley's accent, but her Home Counties was just one of umpteen variations on the English language that reflected the fact that this was a television movie produced in Italy and Germany and backed additionally in France, Britain and America. So Samson's accent was continental American, his mother's theatrical English, while most of his pre-Delilah girlfriends spoke Italian-English. No wonder he fell for the first girl

he met with neatly clipped vowels. Delilah, of course, did not enjoy her riches for long, eventually being squashed by a very large column. Given her lifestyle, that seemed appropriate. Samson also died in the temple, a demise that brought to a close a performance from Eric Thal that seemed to have lasted an eternity. At four hours, it very nearly had. No wonder the American critics were in such vicious mood by the end of it. Me? I'd buy my Christmas cards. Hardly cross at all by the close.

Given the mauling *Crocodile Shoes* (BBC1) has received in recent weeks, Jimmy Nail and Hurley could soon be setting up a support group for serially abused actors — or at least they could once they get over the language barrier. But unlike Hurley, Nail has nowhere to hide, nobody else to blame. As the credits lost no time in reminding

us, he wrote and created it, he stars in it, executive produced it and wrote the songs. As far as I'm concerned, that makes it his fault.

Anyway, last night's episode was the last one, so things were looking up. "Let's hear it for the country boy," I sang, cheerily looking forward to discovering what it had all been about for the preceding five weeks. But as the great Kylie Minogue once said: "I

should be so lucky... lucky, lucky, lucky."

It seems that the reason for everything — his manager's death, his financial ruin, et cetera — was something called "a cut-out scam". Not another cut-out scam, I groaned. No, that's not true. A what, I said? But Nail, alias Jed Sheppard, alias Tyneside's answer to Simple Simon, was ahead of me. "So what's a cut-out scam?" he asked his new and so far still alive manager. He explained... slowly and at some length. I still didn't understand it, but it seemed to involve deleted records. I wonder whose?

Then it all got very strange. The bad policeman became a goody, the sleazy journalist became the caped crusader and something odd happened to the normal patterns of day and night. As the action shuttled between London and Newcastle at a speed that defied the AI, it could be night-time

on the Tyne and broad daylight on the Thames. As Wendy (Liz Carrington) was held hostage by the mad Connors, she seemed to pass through three time zones. Not that it mattered, the gallant Jed would have rescued her in any of them and driven the wicked Warren Bowles (Robert Morgan) into a fuel tanker. Bowles and the cut-out scam were history and so, I hope, is *Crocodile Shoes*.

slightly defensive Goldsworthy. "It's the way they sit, the choice of stone..."

Tim Neil's film was absorbing and enjoyably provocative, playfully contrasting the artist's enthusiasm with the healthy scepticism of local farmers. One minute I could see exactly what Goldsworthy was getting at: "The idea of time is so important to me." The restored sheep-fold could stand for another 50-100 years and even when the walls have crumbled again, the boulders will remain. "The line will always be there."

But just as he convinced me, I suddenly realised he wasn't even doing the walling himself — with the help of an Arts Council grant he'd got the professionals in. This seemed a bit like Van Gogh saying to an assistant: "Here's a nice colour, just dab it on there for me please." Still, if sheep ever discover picnics, those boulders will make lovely tables.

Matthew Bond

BBC1

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (3906)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (30407) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (162462)
- 9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4507681)
- 9.45 KILROY (533370)
- 10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with Kevin Woodcock (55092)
- 11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (303214)
- 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (503482)
- 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (5981038)
- 12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (1923371)
- 12.05pm ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (T) (3070575)
- 12.30 THE WEATHER SHOW (30443372)
- 1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (33594)
- 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (3914258)
- 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (29484914)
- 2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (3468)
- 2.30 PETER SEARCOURT'S GARDENING WEEK Late in series (945)
- 3.00 INCOGNITO (5204)
- 3.30 BRUM (T) (7652999) 3.40 *Romford the Reindeer* (196730) 3.50 *The Family Ness* (T) (6853407) 3.55 *Dear Mr Barker*. Last in series (T) (4402466) 4.10 *The Real Adventures of Jenny Cluest* (T) (T) (157236) 4.35 *Grange Hill* (7288049) 4.50 *Newround* (T) (5919310) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (T) (2281117)
- 5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (T) (9638622)
- 6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (575)
- 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (227)
- 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (T) (7285)
- 7.30 TOP OF THE POPS (T) (336)
- 8.00 DAD'S ARMY Classic comedy with the Wellington-on-Sea Guard. Starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn (T) (9833)
- 8.30 2POINT5 CHILDREN The second of a two-part story. Ben has disappeared and Ron returns from the hospital with more than she bargained for (T) (5440)
- 9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (3440)
- 9.30 HETTY WAINTHROOP INVESTIGATES The police ask Hetty to investigate a spiritualist for them, but she is not prepared for what she discovers (T) (480049)
- 10.25 PARKY AT CHRISTMAS Michael Parkinson relives some of the magical moments from his 11 years as a chat show host, before an invited audience (T) (333372) WALES: *It's Winterval* — Song Book (1954) Parky at Christmas 11.45 FILM: *Canyon Loving* 1.10am FILM: *Canyon on Loving* 2.40am News
- 11.15 FILM: *Canyon on Loving* (1970) starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey and Alan Sues. Romantic comedy with the Corgi Orgy running a bogus marriage bureau. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (345932)
- 12.40am FILM: *Canyon on Abroad* (1972) starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey, John Sims and Barbara Windsor. The *Canyon* team cause havoc when they arrive in a Spanish resort on a package holiday. Directed by Gerald Thomas (3499773)
- 2.10 WEATHER (7149173)

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BBC2

- 5.00pm OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Statistician Strikes Back (7405649)
- 6.25 *Refining the World's Best Athlete* (7418816)
- 6.50 *Refining* (8722643) 7.15 See Her Breakfast News (27417130) 7.30 *The Legend of Prince Valiant* (5879914)
- 7.50 *Smart 2000* (5879914) 8.15 *Charlie Chalk* (7392228) 8.30 *Leslie* (8716135)
- 8.45 *Charlene* (8716134) 8.50 *Clint Read* (8685117) 10.00 *Playdays* (217769)
- 10.25 *Phil Champion Show* (4028484)
- 10.45 *Fresh Gordon's Trip to Mars* (9131371)
- 12.00 *Operation Survival* (88646)
- 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (28117) 1.00 *Charlie Chalk* (9017776)
- 1.15 FILM: *Blanche Fury* (1948). Gothic melodrama starring Stewart Granger and Valerie Hobson. Directed by Marc Allégret (T) (765117)
- 1.45 MR ZOGG'S CLOTHES (3110881) 3.00 News and weather (7870914) 3.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5156117) 3.45 *Performances* (1965643) 3.50 *News and weather* (5673020) 4.00 *Today's the Day* (440) 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (9052)
- 5.00 *Swimming* (8391) 5.30 *Going, Going, Gone* (204)
- 6.00 *THE MUNSTERS* (B/W) (T) (656581)
- 6.25 *UPD* (T) (763198)
- 7.15 *ELECTRIC CIRCUUS* (500196)
- 7.30 TOP GEAR MOTORSPORT Highlights from the motoring calendar (T) (881)
- 8.00 **GLUCK, GLUCK, GLUCK** Malcolm travels to Spain, New Zealand and Germany to discover how they get its flavour (T) (4575)
- 8.30 STEFAN BUZZACCI'S GARDENING BRITAIN In the final programme of the series, Stefan visits the magnificent Capability Brown garden in Stowe, Buckinghamshire, where he is joined by a team of experts to offer seasonal advice on protecting plants from the ravages of winter (T) (6310)
- 8.45 SHOOTING STARS Celebrity quiz with guests Frank Bough, Clare Grogan, John Thorne and Sarah White (T) (4310)
- 8.50 RED DWARF VI Last in series (T) (T) (39681)
- 10.00 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU Highlights from the 1996 series (99575)
- 10.30 NEWSPNIGHT (T) (24861)
- 11.15 LOOKING FOR TAT (774020)



Comedian Polka Dotter (11.25pm)

- 11.25 THE A FORCE The best in black entertainment (15138469)
- 1.30pm FILM: Count of the Old Town (1935, b/w) Comedy thriller starring Ingrid Bergman. Gangsters and bootleggers play hide and seek with the police in Stockholm's Old Town. Directed by Edwin Adolphson and Sigurd Wallen. In Swedish, with English subtitles. (9471824). Ends at 2.45

CH4

Gluck, Gluck, Gluck

BBC2, 8.00pm

Not for the first time Malcolm Gluck reports from New Zealand. The country may be better known for sheep farmers and rugby players than fine wines, but as regular viewers of the series will know, Gluck is a champion of the unfashionable. And the New Zealand Sauvignon blanc is much to Gluck's taste. He is also in Spain, applying one of his favourite words (and one surely of his invention), "gluggable", to a red Merlot. This title is also characterised by Gluck as "rummulous, silky and smooch". Gluck may be an iconoclast, but like most wine experts he never uses one adjective when two will do the job better. Connoisseurs of extravagant winespeak may also relish Gluck's description of the Merlot fruit as being "as textured as fine soft cotton". After all this build-up, 65 bottle seems a snip.

Stefan Buzzacchi's Gardening Britain

BBC2, 8.30pm

The dapper horticulturalist rounds off an agreeable series by taking his roadshow to Stowe in Buckinghamshire, where the Capability Brown garden with its abundance of temples and monuments offers a striking backdrop for the plant surgery. Assisting the forthright Buzzacchi in the expert diagnosis of dodgy specimens are nurserywoman Susan Reddin, this newspaper's gardening correspondent, Stephen Anderson, and William Van Hage. There is another job for Van Hage as he takes us round the grounds of Chenes Manor, which has boasted a garden since the Saxon period. We also hear from Wendy Witzman, a former dancer and theatre director. Born in Britain, she returned from America 11 years ago and has worked with the garden at her Tudor inn.

Shooting Stars

BBC2, 9.00pm

The big news this week is that Vic Reeves appears without his glasses. Can it be that having done his best to emulate his hero, Eric Morecambe, in looks, voice and mannerisms, he is now trying to distance himself from the great comic? But if Reeves has discarded his specs the show still, curiously enough, offers a link with Morecambe and Wise. He is none other than Frank Bough, who proves his staying power by hamming it up as shamelessly for Vic and Bob Mortimer as he did for Eric and Ernie. But if Frank is thinking of a new career as an impressionist, his dreadful Windsor Davies is likely to stop it dead in its tracks. Sarah White from Brookside, television presenter Clare Grogan and comedy actor John Thorne, complete the guest panelists.

Doctor Finlay: Snowblind

ITV, 9.00pm

This seasonal special is virtually a four-hander as snow cuts off Arden House and Janet and Dr Napier are forced to stay the night with Finlay and Cameron. It proves to be a less than festive Hogmanay. Cameron (Ian Bartram) has too much to drink, insults Janet (Annette Crosbie) and has a heart attack. He has also been egging on Finlay (David Rintoul) finally to pop the question to Jennifer Napier (Jessica Turner) and end Arden House's tradition of bachelor doctors. Carey Harrison's script will probably mean little to newcomers but friends of the show will enjoy the intense and often testy interplay between the familiar characters. To add to the pleasure, the show is superbly acted. The material may lean towards the sentimental but the scenes between Bartram and Crosbie in particular have an authentic depth and poignancy.

Peter Waymark

HTV

5.00pm GMTW (763304)

6.25 CAPTAIN SIMIAN AND THE SPACE MONKEYS (5105120)

8.50 STEP BY STEP (2559117)

10.20 NEWS (344773)

10.25 REGIONAL NEWS (3446001)

10.30 FILM: *The Trouble with Harry* (1955)

Comedy thriller starring Edmund Gwenn, John Forsythe and Shirley MacLaine. An old sea captain's friends become involved when he finds a corpse. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (8040469)

12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (5253336)

12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (943657)

12.45 DR QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN (T) (5226843) 2.00 Home and Away (T) (6316744) 2.25 Murder, She Wrote (T) (6031925) 2.55 Yan Can Cook — The Best of China (6267154)

3.00 NEWS (T) (788204)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7886575)

3.30 JAYS WORLD (3579173) 3.40 Zzzap! Christmas Annual (5422611) 3.55 CITV Awards 1996 (8439550)

5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (7043117)

5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (4962957)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (T) (769407)

6.25 SWEEPSTAKES (7043117)

7.00 HDTV NEWS (T) (110200)

7.00 CATCHPHRASE (T) (5681)

7.30 CORONATION STREET Alec sets a trap (T) (407)

8.00 THE BILL: A Gun to the Head A Judge decides to reveal the name of Beachy and Daley's informant (T) (1001)

8.30 FAITH IN THE FUTURE Feltie and Hannah escort a coach load of aged art students across the Channel (T) (9378)

As HTV West except:

12.35pm CROSS WITS (9464285)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30015846)

1.55 MURDER, SHE WROTE (6138485)

2.55-3.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (6267154)

5.10-6.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7043117)

6.25 ANGLIA WEATHER (112682)

6.30-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (21682)

6.00pm FREESCREEN (62624)

As HTV West except:

12.35pm CROSS WITS (9464285)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY MO (30015846)

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 20 1996

PERU SIEGE 11

Latin American guerrillas' love of money vies with sense of social justice

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

SEVERAL representatives of top Japanese firms — including car-makers Toyota and Mitsubishi, electrical goods manufacturers NEC and Matsushita, and the mining firm Mitsui — are among the hostages.

Japan's business presence has risen substantially in mineral-rich Peru during the Fujimori presiden-

NOTIME

cy, with investments of more than \$750 million (£450 million).

The guerrillas' main demand involves the release of several hundred of their comrades jailed in Peru and in neighbouring countries, including Bolivia and Uruguay.

Analysts say the time when Latin American guerrillas fought for democracy and sought social justice is long gone, save perhaps for the Zapatista rebel army in south-

ern Mexico. "These days it's all about money," said Eduardo Gamarra, a Bolivian academic. "Most of the guerrilla groups operating in the region today have been corrupted by money and are little more than common criminals."

Peruvian experts agree that the Cuban and Libyan-trained Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru has a well-proven track record of financing its operation through extortion and kidnapping.

which it likes to call "war taxes". Last year the group kidnapped a leading Bolivian businessman who was released after a \$1 million ransom was paid. The guerrillas were later captured by police and are among those whose release is being sought by those occupying the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima.

"These people are technically very good at the mechanics of kidnapping," said Gustavo Gorriti,

military repression by President Fujimori's Government and the military intelligence services.

Spurning guerrilla offers to negotiate an end to the struggle, the Government chose to try to wipe them out. "In some ways, these people didn't have much of a choice if they wanted to maintain any level of existence," Gorriti said.

Money may be part of their motivation, Gorriti said, but their political survival is also a result of

MANUEL LANGE/REUTERS

SAS team enters Lima arena as proven winners

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Special Air Service has taken on a high-risk mission in Lima, confronted by an enemy dedicated to its cause and prepared to die for it.

The Marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement has a long history of violence and any plan to storm the Japanese Ambassador's residence to release the hostages could lead to a bloodbath.

The challenge for the small SAS team sent from the Hereford headquarters of the British Army's elite regiment is that expectations of their ability to resolve the siege will be high, even though their role in this incident is to be strictly advisory. They are there to add their experience to any American special forces team which is sent to Peru.

The SAS has acquired such legendary operational status that its expertise and experience have been called upon by foreign governments around the globe. Men from 22 SAS, the regular army regiment, have turned up in Somalia, Gambia, and even the United States to offer their help and advice.

One SAS man was believed to have been present at the doomed Waco siege in Texas in April 1993 which ended in disaster when armed American police stormed the fortress home of David Koresh and his followers. The SAS liaison man is understood to have advised against the action.

In Lima, however, there are some additional factors that seem likely to argue against storming the Japanese resi-



half dozen men are believed to consist of four instructors from the counter-revolutionary warfare wing, all senior non-commissioned officers, and two officers.

Although their role will be strictly advisory, past experience has shown that SAS "advisors" tend to get involved on the operational side. This was the case in Gambia and in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, where the SAS played a crucial part in bringing to an end a hijack in the former case and an armed insurrection in the latter.

In October 1977 four Palestinians hijacked a Lufthansa airliner and demanded the release of the jailed leaders of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist organisation. The airliner finally landed in Mogadishu.

The pilot had been murdered and his body was thrown onto the runway.

The Germans asked for British help and two SAS men were sent as liaison personnel to join a German GSG9 special forces team. With no hope of a peaceful end to the hijack, the SAS men drew up a plan and joined the team in storming the aircraft. Three of the four hostages were killed and the passengers were freed.

The SAS's most public operation was the storming of the Iranian Embassy at Princes Gate in 1980. They used entry techniques which demonstrated the regiment's ability to act fast and aggressively. Explosive devices helped to disintegrate the six terrorists — and the 20 hostages — and bring to an end a siege which had lasted for six days.



Two unidentified men watch from inside the Japanese Ambassador's residence, which was seized by gunmen

Moves to free jailed US rebel jeopardised

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE siege is a blow to the hopes of a New York couple who have been campaigning all year for the release of their daughter from a Peruvian prison.

Mark and Rhoda Berenson, both teachers, last month visited Lori, 27, in a crude jail near the Andes. She was sentenced to life earlier this year for belonging to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

The Tupac terrorists have named Lori Berenson as one of the prisoners they want released, among other demands.

Before this week's developments, the Berensons were quietly optimistic that, with discreet

FAMILY

diplomatic assistance and pressure from human rights groups, they could win a reduction in her sentence and improve her jail conditions.

She was tried in one of Peru's controversial "blind" courts, where judges sometimes wear hoods to disguise their identity and where there is no jury.

Now the couple fear the Peruvian authorities will be in no mood to go soft on a misguided American who got mixed up in another country's domestic strife. Nor are the Berensons helped by the international nature of the Lima siege. The Tupac Amaru name will now be linked around the

world with terrorism, not the "poor people's struggle" that their daughter claims she was supporting.

"We are very distressed at the situation in Lima," said Mr Berenson. "We hope that the crisis is resolved expeditiously and peacefully."

An assistant at the office of Ramsey Clark, a former Attorney-General who is helping the Berensons, said the siege "certainly does not help some of the initiatives we are taking".

Mr Clark had harnessed support from Administration officials and several US congressmen. But yesterday the *New York Post* demanded that American officials made no further efforts to assist her.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Russia stepping up spy activities, says FBI chief

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LOUIS FREEH, Director of the FBI, said yesterday that Russia is increasing its efforts to spy on the United States, especially in economic espionage.

He said he would not underestimate the seriousness of the damage caused to national security by Earl Edwin Pitts, the senior FBI agent accused of selling US secrets to Moscow, although a full assessment has yet to be made.

Mr Pitts, 43, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with passing "everything" he could to the Russians between 1987 and 1992, when he worked in the FBI's New York unit responsible for catching Russian spies.

Mr Freeh told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "I think that Russian aggression has been unabated even in the post-Cold War. It's escalating. It's a serious and continuing problem."

He also disclosed that at least 23 foreign intelligence services are targeting the US and its economic infrastructure. But he said US counter-

intelligence has improved. That was one reason why three high-ranking American agents have been arrested for spying in the past three years.

US intelligence chiefs concede that today's well-paid traitors do not believe they are putting their country in as much peril as during the Cold War. Espionage is still personally ruinous and potentially fatal for those who are found out, but no longer carries an

overriding sense that millions of lives could be at stake.

As the three cases show, today's professional spies seem to spend more time spying on each other than unearthing secrets of national security.

The alleged damage caused by Mr Pitts did not involve information about nuclear weapons, satellites or electronic technology. Nor was anyone killed as a result of his suspected treachery.

Mr Freeh had said earlier that the Russians' primary objectives were secrets of tradecraft. They wanted to know how the FBI works, its strengths and weaknesses, and what it knows about Russian agents in America. The FBI's privacy was violated and its pride hurt.

John Deutch, about to retire as CIA Director, explained how the end of the Cold War's had changed espionage.

He said: "A very few case officers in the CIA and other government agencies just don't think it's that big a deal any more to give away secrets. It seems to make it easier to spy for

money now because our country's survival is not at stake the way it was during the Cold War."

Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB chief of counter-intelligence and now a Washington business consultant, said: "In the old days, we were fighting for the minds of human beings across the continents. Today we don't see each other as mortal enemies, so why not play along with the other side as long as they're willing to pay you?"

Money rather than ideology was apparently the lure for the three latest accused. Moscow paid them handsomely, \$25 million (E15 million) in the case of Aldrich Ames, the CIA mole serving life for treason that led to the executions of ten Western agents.

Awaiting trial is Harold Nicholson, a former CIA station chief, who denies supplying the names of CIA recruits to Moscow for \$180,000. Mr Pitts allegedly received \$240,000, though the Russians craftily held back \$100,000 "on account".



Pitts: agent accused of selling FBI's secrets



The "holy" image dismissed by sceptics as caused by light and a garden sprinkler

Hundreds flock to see 'vision of Virgin'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

HUNDREDS of people have been gathering outside a glass-fronted office building in Clearwater, Florida, to stare at what they say is a vision of the Virgin Mary.

Shadows on the tall, smoked-glass windows appear to show a haloed figure resembling traditional depictions of the Blessed Virgin. But sceptics say the shape is caused by light refracted by a garden sprinkler.

The shape was first seen by a woman on Tuesday morning. She mentioned it to others, and within minutes a crowd had gathered. Later, spectators carrying rosary beads prayed in front of the image. Mary Stewart, of the Tampa Jesus Christian Centre, said: "I stepped out of my car and the presence of God almost drew me to my knees."

A spokesman for the Roman Catholic archdiocese of St Petersburg, Florida, said that "people should exercise a great deal of healthy scepticism" about the alleged vision.



Corozzo: faces sentence of 400 years in jail

New arrests after Paris terror blast

Paris: Anti-terrorist officers arrested 20 more suspected Islamic fundamentalists in dawn raids yesterday and police said bomb-making materials similar to those used in the recent attack on a commuter train had been found in a Paris department store (Ben Macintyre writes).

The raids follow the train bombing on December 3, which killed four people. Police blame the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, fighting to overthrow the French-backed Algerian Government.

Seles claim for £10m rejected

Bonn: A German regional court dismissed a £10 million damages claim by Monica Seles, the tennis star, against the German Tennis Federation organisers of the Hamburg tournament where a fan of Steffi Graf stabbed her in 1993 (Peter Bild writes).

The judges ordered Ms Seles to pay costs of £300,000. She was unable to play for nearly two years after the attack and was claiming for distress and loss of earnings.

Rao forced to quit as leader

Delhi: India's Congress Party, in decline after dominating politics for half a century, was in further turmoil last night after its parliamentary leader was forced to resign (Christopher Thomas writes).

P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister until last summer's election, faces at least three corruption charges and is blamed for the party's disastrous electoral performance.

Police held over Kenya killings

Nairobi: Fifteen Kenyan police officers were arrested after an outcry against the Government and judicial system prompted by the killing of three students in protests this week (Sam Kiley writes). One student was shot during a peaceful protest in Nairobi. The other two were killed the following day in Nairobi.

Belly dancing to taxman's tune

Cairo: Egypt's 12 most famous belly dancers pay annually the equivalent of £160 million in taxes, making them the country's fifth largest source of income after receipts from the Suez Canal, tourism, oil and cotton, the Arab weekly *al-Wassat* reported. (AFP)



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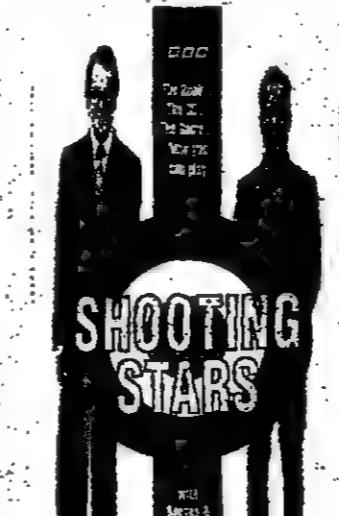
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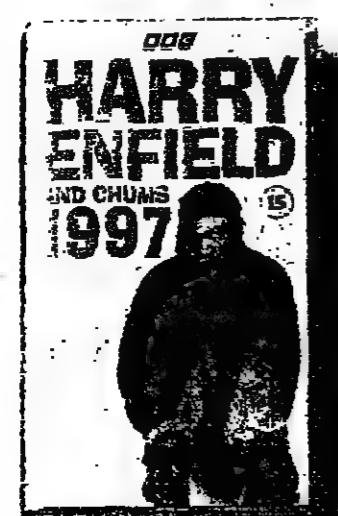
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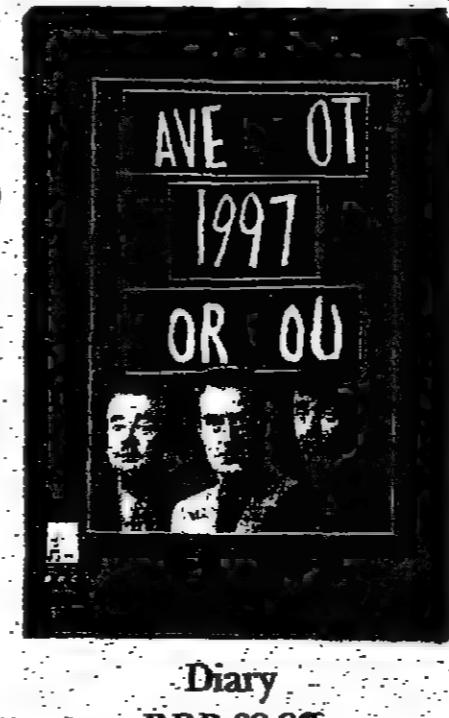
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WHatever they're into, get into WHSmith

Thai factory girls tell a different story about the cost of Christmas toys

FROM SUE LLOYD-ROBERTS
IN BANGKOK

HER shoulders shook as she spoke. "Please, please don't tell anyone my name or show my picture. They will punish me if they know I am talking to you." This is not a tale of rape, murder or espionage. It is the story of workers in a toy factory in Thailand that makes Barbie dolls and the soft-toy version of the 101 Dalmatians that Disney is re-launching this Christmas.

The World Development Movement (WDM), with the TUC and

the Catholic Institute for International Relations, are appealing to shoppers in Britain to hand into toyshops cards bearing the slogan "Fair play for toy workers". The card reads: "By next Christmas, I want to be able to buy 'people-friendly' toys from you". The targets of their campaign are factories in China and the Dynamic Factory outside Bangkok.

There is little doubt that the Dynamic toy factory lacks the "people-friendly" factor. When I asked to visit, I was told that "no outsiders and certainly no press" were allowed inside. I was left to

meet the employees after work in a cafe in the industrial suburb of Kratumban, where four years ago the Kader factory that made Cabbage Patch dolls burnt down; 189 workers, including children, were killed and 400 were injured.

Several workers at the Dynamic factory are survivors of that fire. Supan (not her real name) said: "I still get nightmares. The factory floor here is a big mess. We are crowded in with sewing machines with only a narrow passage in between. The fire exits are blocked ... if we complain about anything, the managers get angry. We are

punished by being moved off the assembly line and get put in nasty areas of the factory ... or we are made to work among the men and carry heavy weights."

Two years ago, a code of practice was introduced by the British Toy and Hobby Association on working conditions in manufacturing plants in Asia which supply Britain. It specifies maximum working hours and insists companies should abide by local labour laws. The girls at Dynamic had not heard of any code. "Nearly all of us are here on continual temporary contracts," said Somr. "I have

worked at the factory for four years, but after I have worked for three or four months they make me resign and then reapply. That way, they don't have to pay me for holidays or sick leave."

Permanent temporary contracts are illegal in Thailand. It is also illegal to ignore the legal minimum wage, but another girl, Lek, said Dynamic had refused to introduce the new rate, the equivalent of \$6 (£3.50) a day, that was introduced in October. "The older workers, that is those who had been with Dynamic for some time, only got an increase of seven baht

(17p) or eight. Only the new ones got the full 12-baht increase, to encourage them to sign up to the factory." The Barbie dolls are made to order by the US toy giant Mattel, which boasted a turnover of \$2.3 billion last year. The company insists its personnel visit manufacturers regularly.

"Oh yes, we see them," said Lek. "When the customer comes, everything is tidied up. They cover up what they don't want him to see."

Mattel said it was "deeply concerned" about the girls' allegations and promised to investigate immediately and take action if necessary. Last night it said it had sent inspectors into the factory this week and found no evidence to substantiate the allegations.

David Hawtin, of the British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association, said: "There are huge problems all over the Third World." A Baywatch Barbie doll in London this Christmas costs £18.99, and a cuddly dalmatian £13.99. The WDM calculates that Mattel earns as much from UK sales of Barbie in one hour as it pays 5,000 workers in Thailand.

Fight over Elmo, page 15

Last eunuch of imperial China dies in temple

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CASTRATED at the age of eight, China's last surviving eunuch, who represented a rare bridge to the country's imperial past, has died in a Buddhist temple in Peking where he lived out the final years of a life of discrimination and repression, temple officials confirmed yesterday.

Sun Yuxing, 94, who served China's last emperor, Pu Yi, and who during the Cultural Revolution was, like his master, persecuted by Red Guards and sent to a labour camp, was found dead last Tuesday at the Guanghua temple where he was once caretaker.

Last night, it was not known whether Sun had been able to keep his *bao* — literally treasure, a euphemism for the picked remains of his genitalia. The kind of ornate receptacle that they were kept in was shown in Bernardo Bertolucci's film *The Last Emperor* and is much sought after in antique markets here.

Eunuchs, of whom there were often thousands guarding the concubines in Chinese imperial courts, traditionally preserved their genitalia after castration so they might be buried with them and thus go to heaven to live in paradise as complete men. According to a spokeswoman at the Peking

religious affairs bureau, Sun personally served Pu Yi's first wife, who was last empress of China. She died of opium addiction in 1946.

Born in 1902 to a poor family in Tianjin just after the Boxer Uprising, Sun was castrated and sent to the Forbidden City in Peking to serve the last princesses and concubines of the Qing Dynasty, which fell in 1911. In the 1930s, during the Sino-Japanese War, he followed Emperor Pu Yi to northeast China where Japan set up a puppet government.

Last night, John Aldis, a physician at the American Embassy here, said Sun's death represented the end of an era. Dr Aldis, who has a wide circle of Chinese medical practitioner friends, including a noted neurologist who has made a study of eunuchs, described the agonies they endured at the imperial court.

He said the operation on a small boy, usually aged about six, was more horrific even than what Westerners imagine. "It was not just the excision of the testicles, as generally thought. With one quick swipe of a very sharp knife, the entire scrotum, penis and penis were removed at once."

"One can just imagine what the pain and trauma must



Empress Hsu Tsi, who died in 1908, attended by eunuchs in the Forbidden City in Peking. Imperial China castrated thousands of servants

have been like for a little boy, who had no warning. There was no anaesthetic of any kind, though some herbs may have been applied. It was brutal and horrific. The agony was intense, and the eunuchs suffered their whole lives from chronic infections of the urinary tract — and without a penis it was very difficult to urinate."

Dr Aldis said that the social stigma — the scorn of society for a man who was not a man

— was terrible. "These little boys grew up never to know what it was to experience sexual desire or to produce offspring," he said.

Dr Aldis added it was quite possible that there were still some unrecorded eunuchs in remote villages, just as in the deep countryside in China, particularly Shandong province, one still sees elderly women with bound feet. In history, some eunuchs have held great power in imperial

households while others did menial tasks. One, Wei Chunxian, was accused of misrule that helped to hasten the end of the Ming dynasty.

However, another, Cheng Ho, who lived in the 15th century, is one of China's national heroes, and its greatest sailor, who led several expeditions to India and the east coast of Africa.

With the last emperor and now the last eunuch dead, China is losing some of its

most traditional figures. Much of its architectural history has gone as well, with the loss of old buildings and city walls.

At the same time, the once puritanical country is now undergoing a sexual revolution. Affairs are popular, and even as the Government cracks down on pornography in a "spiritual civilisation" campaign, an Anne Summers-like chain of sex shops called Adam and Eve, selling sexual

aids, is springing up in Chinese cities. One of Peking's leading department stores near the diplomatic district has an Adam and Eve offshoot under the escalator in the basement. Women in white coats advise shoppers on sexual problems and how they can be treated.

With Sun, however, there could have been no treatment ever.

India's eunuchs, page 14

Mother Teresa walks out of hospital

Delhi: Mother Teresa walked unsteadily out of hospital in Calcutta yesterday after nearly a month in intensive care (Christopher Thomas writes). She was taken to the headquarters of her Sisters of Charity order as doctors, nurses and onlookers applauded.

She fought pneumonia, a heart attack, and lung and

kidney diseases while in hospital, insisting throughout that she wanted to go home and that she should receive no special treatment. But she had the best that Calcutta could offer, and the expertise of an American specialist who had operated on her before.

The nun, 86, wearing a cheap blue and white sari,

greeted about 200 people outside. She has been told that she cannot return to her normal workload as head of the order she founded.

Doctors would have liked her to stay in hospital longer, but she had become anxious to go home.

Photograph, page 20

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	£25,000+	3.80	3.00	3.60	2.84
	£10,000+	3.00	2.20	2.80	2.12
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	£1,500+	2.15	1.72	2.00	1.60
	£1+	1.85	1.48	1.50	1.20
TESSA		5.50	4.30	-	-
	£4,000+	5.40	4.20	-	-
	£1,000+	5.25	4.05	-	-
Cap. Accrued		3.25	2.58	-	-
Christian Accrued		4.00	Gross	-	-
Child. Accrued		2.60	2.08	-	-
United Companies		0.25	0.20	-	-
Deposits		0.25	0.20	-	-
Instant Gold		4.25	3.40	-	-

CLOSED ISSUES	MINIMUM SUMS	ANNUAL INTEREST		MONTHLY INTEREST	
		Gross	Net	Gross	Net
New UK Residents		1.50	1.00	-	-
Elite Special Issues		1.25	1.00	1.25	1.00
Special Bonus 1st Issue		-	-	1.85	1.40
Final Yield Shares		3.20	2.56	3.20	2.56
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'Boys can fly from flower to flower and enjoy romance'

John Sessions, self-styled Mr Swoty, will be seen on Christmas Day in a dramatisation of E. Nesbit's *The Treasure Seekers*. His childhood, though precocious, was not the kind where E. Nesbit's stories such as *The Railway Children*, of middle-class children falling on hard times, were read aloud in the nursery. But he has made up for it since. Mentally and intellectually, he inhabits the late Victorian age.

We were going to meet in the Cadogan Hotel, which would doubtless have set him off on Wildean flights. The mere mention of the place has him quoting: "Mr Wilde, we must ask you to leave us quietly, for this is the Cadogan Hotel." Did I know Betjeman's poem? Well of course. Conversation with Sessions would be hopeless without some literary prep.

He wears his learning on his sleeve, letting allusion and cross-reference seem from his well-stocked mind. "Beggar him, Estella!" he suddenly cries in the voice of Edith Evans playing Miss Havisham. And, "They smile at me who shortly shall be dead" in the voice of Alec Clunes playing Hastings in Oliver's Richard III. He discourses on Ibsen, comparing Nora in *A Doll's House* to Alison in *Look Back in Anger*. If he had actually completed his PhD thesis (on John Cowper Powys) and become Dr Sessions, perhaps he would not feel compelled to display his erudition; but then he would have been lost to the stage, which would have been a pity.

When he first arrived on television in 1983 in *After Midnight*, with Ken Livingstone and Auberon Waugh — Clive Anderson was just the warm-up man — Sessions would sit alone addressing the camera, a little smile playing about his lips. The Scottish accent (he was born in Largs, but left Scotland at the age of three) inspired confidence; but he was already hard to place. What was he exactly? A sitdown comedian? A polemician?

We are still wondering. We know from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* how easily he can improvise going to the dentist in the style of Hemingway or Joyce. In cabaret, (for example, at *Private Eye's* recent 35th anniversary party) he does his Andrew Neil and his Prince of Wales. In *My Night With Reg*, in *Tartuffe*, and in Simon Gray's *The Common Pursuit*, he proved an impressive ensemble actor. But by inclination he is a one-man show man. After Napoleon, Boswell and Lord Leighton he would be doing Oscar Wilde, if Stephen Fry had not commandeered Oscar for now. Perhaps he could take on the pugnacious Frank Harris ...

He draws constantly on the past. Talking of E. Nesbit, a founder Fabian who worked for the poor and fell in love with Shaw, leads him to the struggles of Jane Austen, Fanny Burney, Mrs Gaskell, George Eliot, the Brontës, Louisa May Alcott, Beatrix Potter. Consider, he said, how females in adversity had been written about by Defoe, Richardson — and the "contained fury" that was the lot of any intelligent Victorian woman.

In *The Treasure Seekers*, the Bastable children try to stave off their widower father's financial ruin, aided by Sessions as the kindly bank manager. The fact that Mr Bastable is inventing a fridge leads Sessions to a disquisition on the technological inventiveness of the Edwardians.

The photographer needed a picture. Sessions ("Could I just take a wee drop of that?" — seizing a bottle of red wine from a waiter trying with undisguised impatience to clear up) removed his jacket and instantly began to clown like Chaplin and smirk like Stan Laurel for the camera.

That done, he returned, replaced jacket, and seamlessly proceeded to analyse the subplot he sees in Dora Bastable's relationship with her father. "Fathers and daughters — it's always King Lear and Cordelia," he mused. "I have observed it in my own family." He has a twin sister, Maggie, who after a difficult start (unlike her brother, she failed her H-plus) is now a lawyer in Canada; he is spending Christmas with her. "We are very different," he says. "She looks like Sigourney Weaver, and she's always been a toughie. I have a theory that because girls, even when they're little, know they're going to produce babies, that makes them realists. Whereas boys know — depending on their proclivities — they can fly from flower to flower and enjoy the indulgence of romance. Even the gay ones do."

After Bangor University, Sessions went to Canada to do his MA and started his PhD. Then a theatre director friend told him he should either carry on being the "barathra-blazered, silk-squared gentleman player in amateur dramatics" or go professional. Hence his belated (*area 26*) application to drama school. Having got into the Guildhall, he went out celebrating and arrived at his Rada audition next morning with a terrific hangover. "I did Benedict's 'This can be no trick ... from Much Ado' Hugh Cruttwell said: 'That was terrible. You weren't acting, you were doing an impersonation of what an actor sounds like.' So he did a bit of Pinter's *The Homecoming*, and was awarded a scholarship.

Working alongside Toby Stephens and Geraldine Chaplin last summer (on a film of *Cousin Bette*) made him ponder on the problems of the children of the famous. You remember in *The Prelude*, when Wordsworth rows away across the lake and the mountain above seems to follow him and get bigger? I think all these whose folks are in the business — wee Beckinsale, wee Sam West — have these huge shadows after them. But it drives them too."

Not long ago Sessions spoke of withdrawing his benefice from the Labour Party. His vote remains with them. "But they have 'cabin'd, cribb'd, and confin'd' (*Macbeth*) some of their more eloquent spokesmen, like Tony Benn. The inner sanctum of the party tries to appear crisp, clean, efficient, cost-effective. They have assumed the agenda of the regime they combat.

"But perhaps people like myself should realise that Churchill had to break a few eggs to defeat Hitler. So I'll be sending them lots of money. But I don't want to see any hysterical public relations campaigns. I don't want them to spend it on T-shirts."

John Sessions: "I've spread myself too widely. I thought the game was jumping out of as many holes as possible — but it confuses people"



John Sessions: "I've spread myself too widely. I thought the game was jumping out of as many holes as possible — but it confuses people"

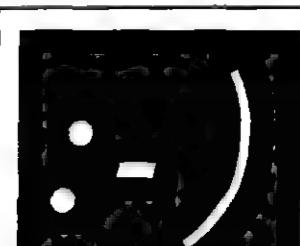
dine Chaplin last summer (on a film of *Cousin Bette*) made him ponder on the problems of the children of the famous. You remember in *The Prelude*, when Wordsworth rows away across the lake and the mountain above seems to follow him and get bigger? I think all these whose folks are in the business — wee Beckinsale, wee Sam West — have these huge shadows after them. But it drives them too."

According to its manufacturer, Tyco Preschool, the shortage occurred because the trade made a monumental booboo about how popular the furry little thing was going to be. Reaction at the US Toy Fair in February was little more than lukewarm, and Tyco estimated selling 300,000 of the \$30 (£18) dolls. Things started to pick up in

October, when Tyco cranked up its Far East machines to make 50,000 Elmos a week. By Christmas Eve the company will probably have sold one million Elmos.

Elmo was until now a struggling inventor with life's cares on his shoulders. Now he is rich and — like the toy — full of laughter.

Elmo has even entered the political lexicon. A conservative magazine, *The Weekly Standard*, noted that when the President recently met China's Defence Minister, a Tiananmen tough called General Chi Haotian, the egregious Mr Clinton went into "Tickle-Me-Bill" mode. Perhaps that is why this toy has been such a success in America. It matches the country's all-grinning, all-accommodating spirit of the age.



BT Internet
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Why America's mothers are fighting it out over Elmo

Toy stores in America this December have witnessed ugly scenes, reminiscent of wartime England when a fresh delivery of nylon reached the local F.W. Woolworth.

The rationed goods, this time, are not toffees, bon-bons, Barnsley chops, or chicken necks. The things American parents are going mad for — at the behest of their children — are plump, reddish dolls which, when touched, will squirm and emit funny noises. They are called Tickle Me Elmo dolls and they have been an unexpected and quite amazing success.

Quentin Letts reports on the Christmas toy that is so popular even a Mafia-boss has to say please to get one

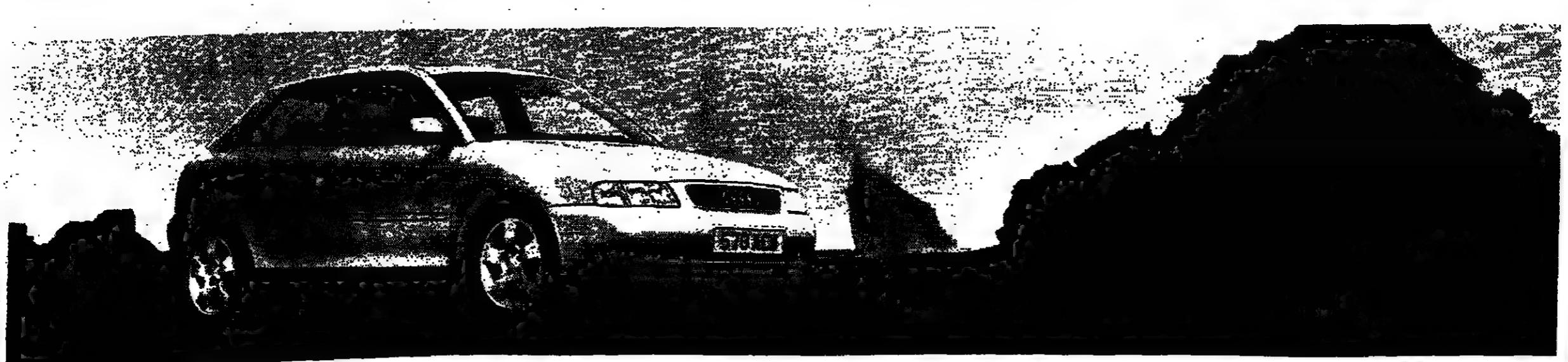
Mom said she saw it first and we got into a tussle match," she explained. "Elmo got torn in two." She waved the doll's remaining paw at the camera to show the triumph of good over evil.

In New York City, with the Italianate swagger which has made his family one of the most feared in that smoky conurbation, John Gott Jr and some associates made what the boys in his trade call a "courtesy call" to the nearby

outlet of Toys 'R' Us. Mr Gott is a capo of the Genovese Mafia clan. "Got any Elmo dolls, please?" he asked the toyshop manager with exquisite politeness, his little pinky raised in supplication. And, what do you know, by some miracle they did have a few. A whole case, to be precise, which was handed over by the toy shop manager with a certain tremulousness of hand.

When a Mafia man wants something so bad he says "please," you know things are

According to its manufacturer, Tyco Preschool, the shortage occurred because the trade made a monumental booboo about how popular the furry little thing was going to be. Reaction at the US Toy Fair in February was little more than lukewarm, and Tyco estimated selling 300,000 of the \$30 (£18) dolls. Things started to pick up in



You're test driving the new Audi A3. Do you:

a) find a narrow ravine with a broken bridge, slam into second and leap the gap shouting 'Geronimo'? b) roar past a wall of fire at the side of the road to an eighties soundtrack? c) just go for a drive?

Audi

A bridge too far for London

Roger Scruton indicts the latest monstrosity of a modernist cartel

Londons have abruptly been informed of a project to build a new bridge across the Thames — a hideous bridge, supporting flats and offices. The structure, designed by the French modernist Antoine Grumbach, will dominate the Thames, and cast the diminutive St Paul's into shadow. The Royal Academy tells us that "the public" has voted two to one in favour of it. Only a few bureaucratic hurdles remain between this idea and the hideous reality.

It is surprising to be told of this popular desire for Grumbach's building, at a time when educated Londoners are turning their backs on modernism, relieved to find that architects still exist who are prepared to respect the old human scale, the old line of the street, and the old sense of detail inherited from the classical tradition. Clearly something is afoot, and this case is a telling illustration of the process whereby a modernist establishment has perpetuated itself, manipulating our rulers and planners, and imposing its half-baked schemes for social regeneration on the voiceless multitudes below.

The vote announced by the Royal Academy was about as reliable an indicator of popular opinion as elections in the old Soviet Union. Here is the story, as I understand it. John Gunner conceives the idea of a bridge across the Thames — a bridge as far as possible from the modernist stereotype, a bridge in the spirit of the Rialto and the Ponte Vecchio, urban, inhabited, marrying the river to the life of the city. However, being a mere Secretary of State, he depends upon the Establishment to endorse his idea. He therefore entrusts the project to the Royal Academy, and so betrays it into the hands of the modernists.

The Academy cooks up an exhibition entitled *Living Bridges*, organised by Peter Murray, editor of Blueprint, a publication devoted to the modernist idea. The Academy then appoints a panel of judges, led by Sir Philip Dowson — the ageing trendy who is also its president, as well as being senior partner in the modernist firm of Ove Arup, and unscrupulous member (for 26 years) of the Royal Fine Art Commission, which has done so much to extend the dead hand of modernism over city planning. The 12 judges include Gordon Graham, president of the RIBA, a quasi-masonic coterie of modernists dedicated to imposing their values on the rest of us. Only two of the judges, John Gunner and his adviser Liam O'Connor, have ever been known to dissent from modernist orthodoxy.

The competition is not put out to tender. On the contrary, the judges invite seven carefully selected firms of architects to submit six designs: six modernists, and one token reactionary (Krier Associates). The judges, failing to agree, choose two "winning designs" — one the piece of modernist kitsch by Grumbach, the other a typical doodle from Zaha Hadid, which looks like a flow chart produced by a crazed computer. Only then is anyone else asked to vote, choosing one of the "winning designs" in preference to the other. The voters are the tiny section of the public that has passed through the Royal Academy's exhibition, itself arranged so as to present these childish jokes as artistic projects on a level with the triumphal bridge of Soane or the great "living bridges" of Venice, Florence and Rome. Do you remember the glorious days of Soviet communism, when each seat in the Soviet was contested by two candidates, both chosen by the Party?

Grumbach's bridge reminds me of nothing so much as the bridge in Bratislava — a comparable piece of kitsch suspended from a single point, which crashes into the old town, demolishes half of it, dwarfs the Church of St Nicholas, and reduces the Danube to a dirty puddle. This bridge too was built by "popular request", under orders from the ruling élite of the Communist Party.

So how does modernism work? First, modernist projects are huge, expensive and result in buildings with vast maintenance costs.

Hence they are, from the point of view of their architects, immensely lucrative, and the source of permanent income in the form of constant repair work.

Secondly, establishments that used to be composed of sober, conservative people, with inherited status that they were anxious to preserve, are now formed in another and opposing way. In the modern world, patronage is in the hands of the State — in other words, in the hands of the bureaucrats, politicians and scoundrels who live from our taxes, and who have a vested interest in change since it is the motor of their own advancement. Progress is the ideology through which these apparatchiks assert and justify their domination.

Finally we should take account of the appeal of modernist ideas for the half-educated. Modernism wipes away piecemeal knowledge and slowly acquired wisdom, and puts a comprehensive system in their place. As every child with a Lego set can discover, it requires neither culture nor talent nor skill to be a modernist. At the same time, modernism enables its adepts to posture as members of an enlightened *avant-garde*. In the words of Shaftesbury, the most ingenious way of becoming foolish is by a system.

That, in short, is how it is that the presidency of the Royal Academy — an institution founded to safeguard artistic values against the corrosion of the modern world — came to be bestowed upon someone wedded to an aesthetic which threatens our architectural heritage, and which clutters our once-beautiful city with projects from which no one gains benefit. The cartel of architects who promote them.

One Wednesday evening, however, he brought a table of ten to a fundraising dinner at the Café Royal in London for the Conservative Friends of Israel. "It is an organisation within the arena of the Conservative Party," Chinn reluctantly admitted yesterday. So within the arena, in fact, that the Prime Minister turned up to make a speech. A six-figure sum was raised for the Conservative Friends for Israel, and Conservative Central Office will be receiving a tidy slice of that.

"My interest is in Israel," insists Chinn. "I am just as involved with the Labour Friends of Israel." Just to complete the circle, Chinn

donor." So to sum up Chinn's position: not really a considerable donor to Labour while not the sort to attend real Conservative doos. The politicians would be proud.

• Alan Howarth, the Tory MP who defected to Labour last year, continues to rise within his new party. He is still looking for a seat, but he has just been co-opted on to the executive of the Fabian Society. "He joined the society as soon as



Growing up as killers

How did children in Britain learn to take human life? We are living in an age that is unshockable

I have always admired the Labour MP Frank Field. His work is sensible and honest; and he helps those who need help. A while ago, he wrote an article in the *Daily Mail* which — but let him speak for himself:

The new barbarians: a growing army of louts and thugs who make life hell for my more vulnerable constituents. The biggest change I have seen in my Birkenhead constituency since I was elected in 1979 is the seemingly unstoppable rise of this underclass of brutish and almost unemployed young males who "mature" into anti-social, often criminal, adults.

Secondly, establishments that used to be composed of sober, conservative people, with inherited status that they were anxious to preserve, are now formed in another and opposing way. In the modern world, patronage is in the hands of the State — in other words, in the hands of the bureaucrats, politicians and scoundrels who live from our taxes, and who have a vested interest in change since it is the motor of their own advancement. Progress is the ideology through which these apparatchiks assert and justify their domination.

The two boys — remember they were both 13 — tortured the homeless man to death. He was robbed, hit, kicked, covered by poured molten plastic, and finally set alight. His burns were such that he was in agony for three weeks before he died.

I repeat that the two boys were 13 years of age in plain English; they killed a human being for fun. Now, what I want to know is — how did little children in Britain become like this?

But try this. Peter Moore, 50, the homosexual owner of a cinema chain killed four men for the pleasure he derived from the act of murder. The men he killed were complete strangers, none of whom had done anything to annoy or aggravate him. Moore's first victim was Henry Roberts, a retired railwayman who lived as a recluse near Anglesey. The second victim was Edward Carthy, who was stabbed to death with a combat knife and of whom Moore said, "I think he was a bit frightened, actually". The third was Tony Davies. His fourth victim was Keith Randles, and Moore said this about

the way his victim died: "There was a certain enjoyment from it but the enjoyment certainly wasn't sexual. Like everything, it was a job well done. You know, the job was done." When a victim asked why he was going to be killed, Moore replied "For fun".

Now we turn to the old man (truly old — he was 84), Kenneth Speakman, who was a member of a shooting club in Ramsgate: he was murdered for his guns. He was a highly respected resident of Ramsgate. He was very sprightly. He had been interested in guns all his life.

He was a very conscientious person and he was a firm believer in keeping his guns locked away securely. But when the thieves broke in, the guns were not just stolen: Speakman was beaten and strangled, for no comprehensible reason.

We have all read of the dreadful killing of Louise Allen. Again, one of the killers was 13, and the other was 12. The innocent child was kicked to death.

A re you feeling sick? You will be much, much sicker. Try this headline: "Widow, 94, raped by youth in graveyard". Harken to the widow:

I decided to take a walk down to the graveyard. I wanted to go to see the flowers of my neighbour's husband's grave. I thought I would go through the grass. I was walking towards the grave and I passed my husband's plaque when someone from behind pushed me and I fell to the ground. He seemed amused and was laughing. I was screaming and yelling as loud as I could. I said to him "Why don't you get a younger woman? I am in my nineties." He said "It doesn't make any difference." I was shocked and there was nothing I could do.

The young man who did that, Steven Barton, has been caught, tried, convicted and has started a 12-year sentence.

Now do please believe me when I say that this hideous catalogue of dreadfulness is not compiled just to cause nausea, though there is plenty of nausea to come. All these terrible things have a meaning, and a particular meaning.

But there is more. A wandering man, whom none would harm, found himself harmed to death, and a very terrible one it was. But that is not the point: killers abound, and always have. More to the point, the shocking Bulger case was not only a "one-off", but something quite different: it is clear that the boys who did

the deed had no conception of murder or indeed any kind of evil.

But the two who killed Alan Whittle, and killed him in the most dreadful manner imaginable, were only 13 years old and should have known exactly what they were doing. As should those children who killed Louise Allen.

These are not scraps from my album, and if they were, there would be a clue. When the Louise Allen case was in court, someone murmured these words: "It is another shocking example of school-age gang violence sweeping the country." And what did Frank Field say? They are the new barbarians: a growing army of louts and thugs who make life hell for my most vulnerable constituents."

True, but it is only the edge. Louts and thugs, new barbarians, stone-throws, yes, but this is not adequate to describe the world we are now sinking into. I want to know why that hideous killing of Alan Whittle took place, and I must know why a little child did it.

And again, I turn to the terrible impossible. Hear the prosecutor for the case saying, "There is no doubt the defendants knew that what they were doing was wrong". Then in the name of God, how did such children know what it is to kill

another human being, and even how it is done?

I say it again. There are, in our civilised Great Britain, children who are hardly out of their swaddling-clothes who know how to kill human beings, and some of them have already actually killed human beings, and some of those have killed human beings for fun.

And the father of the dead child said: "We have tried to bring our children up correctly, but law and order is a joke when you have got gangs running around wild. We never hit Louise even once, we didn't have to. You only had to shout at her and she would burst into tears." And the father of the dead child added: "I brought her up the way I was brought up myself: — respect your elders, be polite, and have good manners."

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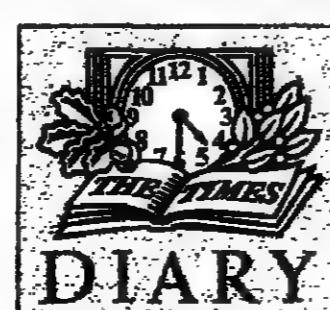
Bernard Levin

Double Chinn

ONE of Tony Blair's greatest financial supporters popped up on Wednesday evening at a fundraising dinner for a leading Conservative organisation. Sir Trevor Chinn, head of Lex Services, one of the country's biggest car dealerships, was named last month as one of the superleague who had given substantially to the blind trust fund which provides finance for Tony Blair's private office. The entire fund is worth some £500,000.

One Wednesday evening, however, he brought a table of ten to a fundraising dinner at the Café Royal in London for the Conservative Friends of Israel. "It is an organisation within the arena of the Conservative Party," Chinn reluctantly admitted yesterday. So within the arena, in fact, that the Prime Minister turned up to make a speech. A six-figure sum was raised for the Conservative Friends for Israel, and Conservative Central Office will be receiving a tidy slice of that.

"My interest is in Israel," insists Chinn. "I am just as involved with the Labour Friends of Israel." Just to complete the circle, Chinn



Roman home

ITALIAN-SPEAKER required, with background in the arts, to take over as curator of the Keats-Shelley memorial house in Rome. Undoubtedly one of the most agreeable berths in arts management, the house has been occupied by Bathsheba Abse, 37, for the past six years, which included the bicentenaries of the births of both Keats and Shelley. Now, recently married to an Italian diplomat and heading with him to Brussels, she is leaving reluctantly.

Well spent?

MOTHER TERESA'S improving health is good news all round, except down at the accounts department of CNN in New Delhi where there is something of a conflict of interests. The network's bureau

and Alexandra visited the house, near the Spanish Steps, for the first time. "The job comes with a very noisy flat beneath the house," says Ms Abse, "so it is not a job for someone who wants a tranquil life. But for me, Italy has been what Keats called the 'paradise of exiles'."

CNN's headache was turning

into a migraine yesterday when Mother Teresa, who has suffered a heart attack, pneumonia, lung disease and kidney disease in the past three months, tottered cheerfully into a waiting limousine to return to her convent for Christmas — swiftly followed by the CNN film crew.

• Early mornings in Porto Ercole,

the seaside playground for Rome's Alfa Spyder class, will be quietier after the death of Marcello Mastriani.

As the town's mature

signore pottered around buying

their pannini. Mastriani would

emerge from his home up on the

hillside in full cycling kit,

lycra shorts included. Then

mounting a multi-gear racing

bike. His return was a much sweat-

er uphill business.

New material

MADONNA'S performance as

Evita is as nothing, say her friends,

to her Andrew Lloyd Webber act.

She has apparently perfected a



E-viva Evita

tion, the two spent many tiring hours together in rehearsal, and naturally enough for a performer

Madonna is said to have had Sir

Andrew's voice and mannerisms off

Sir Andrew was apparently

blissfully unaware of the double

act taking place. Although she is

in London for the opening of the

film of *Evita*, Madonna has not

been spending enough time with Sir

Andrew to try out her impersonation on him.

Philip Howard

■ "Parliaments past? Bah," said Stooge. "Humbug!"

The bell of his bleeped only once. But it was a peal to waken the dead. Awaking in the middle of a prodigiously rough snore, and sitting up in bed to get his thoughts together, Ebenezer Stooge reached across for his portable telephone.

As leader of his party, he automatically assumed that the call came from a researcher for the *Today* programme, desirous of asking him whether he was disappointed not to be "elected" by telephony stampede as its personality of the year. And then to interrupt him aggressively as soon as he made to answer. But an unearthly light was streaming from the next chamber, as from a television studio, and there were no make-up personnel to take up the cold sweat from Stooge's brow.

"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost, for ghost it must have been. "Come in! and know me better, Mighty Statesman! For I am the Ghost of Question Times Past. And I have come to show you the error of your ways. So take hold of the hem of my tunic."

The Speaker of Question Times Past was a handsome woman dressed in buckles and bows. She smiled at Stooge in a lofty but not unfriendly way. And as he grasped her unicorns, they seemed to be whisked in an instant high up into the highest gallery of the debating chamber he knew so well, and where he continually strove to lead his party when he was not following it.

As usual, the hall was clamorous with folly and simulated passion. The bastards, rebels and prigs on his back benches were in full cry, baring for Bedlam. The microphones crackled with the bellowing of the mad cows of both sexes, enraged about Eurnees, the new coinage proposed for Europe. A new leakage of sleaze was driving them wild. And a tired grey figure at the dispatch box was trying to repeat for the third time the empty soundbite that his rhetoric coaches had written and rehearsed for him.



SPEAK, MEMORY

From Brixton to Bahamas: the dangers of politicians abroad

Many statesmen, from Julius Caesar to General Galtieri, have embarked on adventures abroad to burnish their reputation. But the past too is a foreign country ripe for colonisation by politicians.

This week Tony Blair took the trip down memory lane that John Major, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan have followed before him. The trip was not an unalloyed success. His TV tale of a failed teenage trip to the Bahamas seems to have been more heavily embroidered than the Bayeux tapestry. Archer's syndrome, the condition of allowing natural creativity free play with one's memory of life before politics, is not, it seems, confined to Lord Archer.

We should not, however, be too censorious: we recipients of memories must share some of the guilt with the inventors of them. Politicians are now too packaged; every sound they emit is too bitten into shape; voters are thirsty for evidence of what their leaders are really like. The better they know what they did before they entered public life, the better they think they can judge their real fitness for it.

The public interest in Mrs Blair and Mrs Major may seem a frivolous distraction from the real beauty contest between competing tax regimes. But voters are fascinated by the leaders' wives because their choice of partner was the most important decision Messrs Blair and Major made before they entered the Commons. The choice of Cherie and Norma can be held to say more about their respective spouses than any number of rarely enlightening, keynote speeches about core values.

Party spin-doctors, sensitive to how suspicious the public have become of current pronouncements, have become increasingly alive to the power of the past. Try Memory, or Cokharbour Lane, Prime Minister. A boyhood in Brixton is now thought to communicate concern for the less fortunate more effectively than the pledge of another billion pounds for the National Health Service. The Marxists have been proved right: the personal, now, is always political. President Clinton was elected on a

promise to re-invent Government but his main political achievement seems to have been re-inventing himself. Slick Willie, the hustler from Hot Springs, a louche Arkansas gambling town became Bill, the boy from a town called Hope who in his journey from fatherless cabin to the Governor's mansion embodied the American Dream.

Mr Blair has been criticised for borrowing from the US President's campaign style. But it is Mr Major's own dramatisation of his journey from two rooms in South London to 10 Downing Street that seems the more obvious homage. From the 1992 election broadcast, *The Journey* to the 1996 party conference sideswipe at Labour's old school ties. Mr Major has turned his narrative into a metaphor for meritocracy. Mr Major's earliest years in the suburban security of Worcester Park, his undistinguished academic record and his reliance on the patronage of others, such as Anthony Barber, have all been eclipsed by the careful construction of a Major myth.

Mr Blair, whose journey from Fettes to the Bar via St John's College Oxford is hardly an odyssey of the underprivileged, has had to work hard to pepper his past with moving moments. In his party conference speech this year the Labour leader opened his heart to talk of his father's illness. The emotion was sincere but the effect was mixed. The British, despite the efforts of Vanessa and Esther, tend not to like their emotions raw. Bare souls induce the same embarrassment among most Britons as bared bodies, even at special seaside corrals such as nudist beaches or party conferences.

Mr Blair's latest schoolboy memory, bunking off to the Bahamas, seems as though it might have been designed to convey a hint of rebelliousness, to temper the Labour leader's toothy wholesomeness. Mr Blair may feel that sharing his past sins makes him more human; so it may do. But it would be desirable if politicians refrained from telling the voters so much about the journeys they have made in the past and so little about where they propose to take the country in the future.

DONS AND DATA

Assessment of university research is difficult but worthwhile

League tables and external scrutiny are now an established part of British education. While schools may not love them the tables have been accepted and in some cases actively embraced. In so far as any debate about them remains it concerns the best means of producing the most informative material. Universities, on the other hand, show few signs of even grudging respect for external evaluation. Although the figures published yesterday, and reproduced in *The Times* this morning, are the result of the fourth such review in ten years, they still have few friends in the common rooms.

Some of the more lurid accusations of the past — such as the claim that the whole concept was a monstrous threat to academic freedom — seem to have been quietly dropped. Instead complaints focus in three main areas: that the bureaucratic demands made in collecting the required data are excessive; that it is impossible to make meaningful judgments between radically different forms of research; and that funding should not be contingent on this formula.

All three arguments have some truth but not enough to invalidate the project. Any system which requires 60 panels to examine 69 subject areas through four submitted pieces of research per staff member is going to generate an enormous amount of paperwork. After the last exercise in 1992 the Higher Education Funding Council promised a less burdensome structure for future years. It has not delivered. Such bureaucracy clearly imposes costs in terms of academic time. But there have also been benefits. Even *dons* in the most ancient universities will concede, through gritted teeth, that outside pressure has forced them to develop research strategies and deal with

those staff members whose output has been inexplicably low or persistently poor.

It is not easy to devise objective criteria for measuring research quality. With schools there is an agreed and commonly identified common benchmark — examination results — that can be used as a yardstick. No such simple medium exists for the output of *dons*. Nonetheless, both in the arts and sciences there are enough similarities to allow for the sort of intensive peer group review that was the hallmark of the 1996 enterprise. Academics seem content to use the same technique when deciding upon the appointments of professors. Engaging in the abstract thesis that there is no such notion as objective good may make for stimulating philosophical debate. It is not a basis from which the Department for Education can proceed.

On the matter of funding the critics have a valid point. After 1992 an elite set of 15 mostly older universities suggested that they receive virtually all available resources to concentrate on research while the rest made teaching their near-exclusive purpose. That was always a rather self-serving suggestion. It would be very hard to justify on the results now published. Some 59 universities have at least one department that has attained the highest grade available, one that implies the majority of output is at an international standard. That does not suggest that research funding should be allocated wholly on so narrow a basis.

The majority of our universities should continue to seek both high-quality research and teaching. This research exercise has highlighted a broadly based improvement since four years ago. Most *dons* would support that conclusion even if they detect the means by which it was generated.

EVEREST OF THE SPIRIT

The risk may be less but the search remains the same

Sir Randolph Fiennes failed in his latest quest to trek alone across the breadth of Antarctica. Kidney stones crippled him after only 26 days, and he had to be airlifted to hospital in Chile. Yesterday he returned to Britain, a haggard and disappointed man. Yet even his failure has something heroic about it. The ageing, craggy explorer set himself one of the most challenging endurance tests in the world's most inhospitable continent, and made rapid progress. He continued even when in agony, crossing a formidable ridge in a near blizzard and displaying to the video camera the toll this took on his bandaged feet and broken body. On arriving at Heathrow he announced that he is off to Siberia for his next expedition.

Sir Randolph is a very English eccentric in the tradition of Scott, Livingstone, Wilfred Thesiger and others who have battled their way through deserts and icefields beyond the endurance of ordinary mortals, surviving as much on willpower as on their meagre rations. Getting there first was the motive that drove them on. The satisfaction for Livingstone and Sir Edmund Hillary was to plant their flags in places where their countrymen had never ventured before. Scott paid with his life for his determination to achieve similar glory for England. In all,

willpower combined with obstinacy, hubris and masochism to fashion bodies and nerves of steel.

Critics can point to the artificial nature of such ventures nowadays. For if an explorer is crippled by frostbite, a lone yachtsman becalmed or a balloonist marooned in the desert, he can radio for help and wait until he is airlifted to safety. For Amundsen, Magellan and Lindbergh there was no such lifeline; they were testing the limits of endurance and technology on their own, and either made it or died in the attempt. Nowadays there are few natural frontiers left to explore, apart from the deepest trenches of the seabed or the wastes of outer space. Those who set out to walk across the Antarctic, race to the North Pole or circumnavigate the globe in a tiny vessel are imposing upon themselves conditions that they could ignore if they wished.

The challenge nowadays has therefore subtly changed. Those who excite our imagination and awe are the men and women who pitch themselves not against the simple elements but against their own handicaps or limitations. Sir Randolph is now 52. His body bears the scars of earlier expeditions, and each further quest is a greater physical and psychological Everest.

Duke's views on gun legislation

From Mr Tony Hill

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh likens guns to cricket bats (reports, December 19). If Thomas Hamilton had entered a gym with a cricket bat in his hand how many people could he have battered to death before being restrained by the adults?

The Duke should consider the real reasons for a call to ban handguns (letters, December 16, 17). Our society is getting more and more violent, and many of us do feel threatened. No doubt most members of gun clubs are "peaceable" citizens, and of no general risk, but there is that possibility that their guns could be used in anger or distress, as were Michael Ryan's and Thomas Hamilton's. Both were accepted members of the shooting fraternity until they turned their guns on innocent people.

The removal of any weapons from circulation has got to be a good step.

Yours etc,
TONY HILL,
15 The Slade,
Silverstone, Northamptonshire.
December 19.

From the Reverend Charles Jenkins

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh is mistaken when he says the Government's Bill on handgun legislation is blighting the shooting community for the tragedy at Dunblane. The type of weapons themselves was a significant factor in what drove Thomas Hamilton.

It is surely not incidental that the atrocities at Hungerford and Dunblane were committed with automatic and high-calibre weapons, the sheer power of which can go to a madman's head. The nature of 22 handguns and rifles, by contrast, encourages more self control.

More stringent checks on individuals will not help, in my view: is the shooting community really prepared to put up with the invasion of privacy, and extremely cautious presumption of fitness, that would be necessary to stop determined and ingenious psychopaths from obtaining high-powered weapons legally? The only way is to ban them.

Far from being a knee-jerk reaction or fudge, the legislation's main proposals appear to me to find a very good balance between appropriate gun control and the legitimate rights of shooters. Why does anyone need to target-shoot with .45 pistols if not to hunt? The nature of 22 handguns and rifles, by contrast, encourages more self control.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES JENKINS,
The Rectory, 67 Dalby Road,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.
December 19.

From Mr Mark Marsh

Sir, Predictably, those who seek the prohibition of handguns have responded with emotion and crude insult to the Duke of Edinburgh's remarks.

I applaud the Duke. I have never owned a handgun, and have no wish to, but I do wish this debate were conducted in a rational manner. I regret that, thus far, it has been driven by emotion and I agree with Douglas Hurd that this is no basis for legislation.

Yours faithfully,
MARK MARSH,
5 Columbus Square,
Manor Road, Erit, Kent.
December 18.

From Mr K. Seedhouse

Sir, When Thomas Hamilton planned the destruction of the children of Dunblane, the termination of his own life was presumably of equal importance to his tormented mind. Perhaps the Duke has not considered how Hamilton could turn a cricket bat against himself.

Yours faithfully,
K. SEEDHOUSE,
4 The Burrows,
Cuddington, Cheshire.
December 19.

From Mr L. T. Allen

Sir, The Duke of Edinburgh obviously felt that it is better to be right than politically correct.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ALLEN,
30 Prescott Fields,
Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
December 19.

Support for disabled

From the Reverend Peter D. McGuire

Sir, Alan Challone (letter, December 12) says that caring for a disabled child "may undermine the family structure, causing disruption in the lives of siblings, and unmitigated stress to their parents".

The fact that many "normal" children also have these effects surely points to problems and stresses of family life being more complicated than he suggests.

Yours sincerely,
PETER D. MCGUIRE,
9 Castle Hill, Eckington,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
December 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

UK universities 'at a crossroads'

From Sir Richard Luce,
Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Buckingham

Sir, In your report of December 13 on the LSE governing body's decision, in principle, to allow the introduction of top-up fees for students (see also leading article, December 14), you refer to the experience of the University of Buckingham as the only independent university.

The Duke should consider the real reasons for a call to ban handguns (letters, December 16, 17). Our society is getting more and more violent, and many of us do feel threatened. No doubt most members of gun clubs are "peaceable" citizens, and of no general risk, but there is that possibility that their guns could be used in anger or distress, as were Michael Ryan's and Thomas Hamilton's. Both were accepted members of the shooting fraternity until they turned their guns on innocent people.

May I, as retiring Vice-Chancellor of that university, impart to your readers a view that I have formed after five years' experience of higher education.

Universities in the UK are at a crossroads. The dramatic but welcome expansion in access to higher education of recent years has also seen a reduction in taxpayers' support per student. If this continues, we shall see a steady deterioration in the quality of higher education.

One painful example of this is the decline in staff/student ratios and small tutorials. The chances are that, whichever party forms a government after the general election, it will not have sufficient taxpayers' resources available to sustain a high-quality university education, in view of the range of other priorities in primary and secondary education and health services, and the pressure to contain public spending.

This presents a unique opportunity for Sir Ron Dearing's committee, appointed by the Government with the support of the Labour Party, to produce a coherent set of recommendations for the maintenance of high-quality British universities in the next century.

CPS and the disclosure of evidence

From Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith, QC

Sir, The legal profession will have read with grave disquiet the proposal that the Crown Prosecution Service and the police will determine the circumstances in which unused material is disclosed in the defence (report, December 11).

Experience has shown that the CPS or the police seldom give adequate attention to unused material, while it is normal for the defence to review this material with care. It is surprising how often evidence of crucial importance to the defence is discovered in this material.

The profession will have no confidence in a system where the defence are dependent on the Crown or the police to determine what they should see and what they consider relevant. It is pre-

A radical rather than piecemeal approach is needed, but one that is implemented over a reasonable timespan. We must give all universities their independence by freeing them from dependence on direct government funding.

That freedom will facilitate a diverse range of universities able to accommodate an increasingly large and varied student market — from school leavers to mature students studying full-time or part-time, using a number of learning methods. Universities' success will depend upon matching the quality of service they can offer the student to the purposes of their particular missions.

This strategy must be buttressed by a new funding system, at the heart of which should be the recognition that those students who can afford to do so should have to pay a share of their tuition fees. The LSE has proposed a sliding-scale method of support governed by the income of the student or their parents. Those who are not funded directly by the State must be encouraged to develop savings and loan schemes to enable them to pay their fees.

It requires courage on the part of both universities and politicians to journey down this path. The LSE should be congratulated on taking this decision and acting as a catalyst for change.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
Vice-Chancellor,
The University of Buckingham,
Buckingham MK18 1EG.
December 16.

Role of Croatia

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia

Sir, I express my deepest astonishment at your leading article of November 29, "The egg revolution", in which you attempted to equate the policies and roles of the Croatian President, Dr Franjo Tudjman, with those of the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic. Such a thesis is totally unfounded and misplaced.

President Tudjman was among the first to offer a political solution to the so-called Yugoslav crisis. Croatia was first to recognise the independence of successor states to former Yugoslavia, including Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under the determined leadership of President Tudjman, Croatia played a decisive role in changing the balance of power in the region last year, thus reversing a major part of the earlier gains of Greater Serbian expansionism and creating the strategic conditions that finally lead to the conclusion of the Dayton peace agreement. The

full implementation of that agreement is one of Croatia's national goals.

President Tudjman's commitment to co-operate fully with the international community contributed decisively in establishing Croatia as a stable and potentially prosperous country based on democratic pluralism and free market economy.

Unlike Serbia, Croatia is a member of all the major international organisations — including the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — and the international banking community regards Croatia now as highly desirable partner.

Your attempt to artificially equate Croatia and Serbia, and their leaders, can serve no constructive purpose.

Yours faithfully,
ANTE CICIN-SAIN,
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia,
21 Conway Street, W1.
December 18.

Royal succession

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, On the question of equal rights of succession to the throne, Nigel Miskin (letter, December 17) asks: "Is it not rather arrogant for us to presume to dictate to future generations in this way?"

By that token, has not this country always been labouring under an arrogant presumption that only male heirs can succeed?

Mr Miskin questions changing the present order of succession so that the Prince Royal would be raised above the Duke of York, his little daughters and Prince Edward. Why not? Personally, I think that our popular and hard-working Princess Royal would make an excellent monarch. We could do worse.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.
December 17.

From the Dean and Tutor in Ancient History, Merton College, Oxford

Sir, Had Lord Archer's proposed rules for the royal succession been in force at the time, Kaiser Wilhelm II would have succeeded to the British throne on August 5, 1901.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS BRAUN,
Merton College, Oxford.
December 17.

Just solution to 'litigation lunacy'

From Mr D. E. Downs

NEWS

SAS team arrives at Lima siege

■ An SAS team arrived in Lima to join American security experts as the 484 hostages inside the Japanese ambassador's residence settled down for a third night with their 30 heavily armed Tupac Amaru captors.

The team of six from Hereford includes explosives experts and a sniper team commander. Hostage negotiators from Scotland Yard also flew in as talks between the Peruvian Government and the rebels moved slowly. **Pages 1, II**

Murder hunt police given more time

■ Magistrates granted police more time to question Robert Friar, a 35-year-old unemployed man who was arrested on Wednesday for questioning over the murders of Lin Russell and her daughter Megan as they walked home from Goodnestone Primary School in Kent. **Page I**

Duke apologises

The Duke of Edinburgh apologised for criticising government plans to ban handguns, saying he had no intention of causing offence or distress and was sorry if he had done so. **Page 2**

Rape ignored

Residents of Chislehurst, south-east London, said they were astonished that rush-hour motorists did not stop to rescue a woman civil servant who was raped and beaten on a busy street. **Page 3**

Oxford victory

Oxford and Cambridge both claimed victory in the four-yearly university research ratings, which will influence the distribution of £700 million of government money. **Pages 4, 17, 43**

Dying breath

The BBC is considering filming the last moments of a dying man or woman for a series charting human life from the cradle to the grave. **Page 5**

Appeal to Mandela

The father of a 28-year-old Briton killed by a traffic police officer in a KwaZulu/Natal coastal resort has written to President Mandela to ask for justice. **Page 6**

Footballer's damages

A former Stockport County footballer was awarded an estimated £250,000 damages in the High Court over a high tackle which ended his career. **Page 7**

China's last imperial eunuch dies

■ Sun Yaoting, China's last surviving imperial eunuch, has died in a Buddhist temple in Peking where he lived out the final years of a life of discrimination and repression. He was 94 and served Pu Yi, China's last emperor, and his first wife after being born into a poor family, castrated at the age of eight and sent to the Forbidden City. **Page 13**



Mother Teresa, 86, leaving hospital in Calcutta yesterday after a heart operation and a month in intensive care. **Page 13**

BUSINESS

Merger bill: Halifax Building Society faces costs of £413 million for merging with the Leeds and floating on the stock market, or £46 for each borrower and saver. **Page 21**

Collapse: Dunn & Co, the menswear retailer specialising in hats and tweed, has collapsed for the second time in six years. KPMG was appointed receiver. **Page 21**

Damages: GKN, the engineering and defence group, faces a damages bill of about £400 million after an American exhaust subsidiary lost a class action suit. **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 27.5 points to close at 4045.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 94.4 to 94.1 after a fall from \$1.6725 to \$1.6630 and from DM2.5999 to DM2.5938. **Page 24**

Gas pipeline plans: The BBC is considering filming the last moments of a dying man or woman for a series charting human life from the cradle to the grave. **Page 5**

Simple spymen: An American who spied for Moscow was arrested but nowadays spies are less interested in national security secrets than in the enemy's tradecraft. **Page 12**

Barbie campaign: The dynamic factory in Thailand, where Barbie dolls are made, is the target of an international campaign to get fairer conditions for workers. **Page 13**

Motorists' damages: A former Stockport County footballer was awarded an estimated £250,000 damages in the High Court over a high tackle which ended his career. **Page 7**

China's last imperial eunuch dies: Sun Yaoting, China's last surviving imperial eunuch, has died in a Buddhist temple in Peking where he lived out the final years of a life of discrimination and repression. He was 94 and served Pu Yi, China's last emperor, and his first wife after being born into a poor family, castrated at the age of eight and sent to the Forbidden City. **Page 13**



ENTERTAINMENT

IN THE TIMES

■ **MAGAZINE:** Debbie Reynolds (left), Elvis Presley and Peggy Lee in the top 100 easy listening hits

■ **WEEKEND:** Where early birds get the best bargains: a nationwide guide to the January sales

THE MIDDLE EAST

■ **Heritage piece:** Instead of turning it into more offices, why not open up Admiralty Arch and the history it embodies to the public. Marcus Binney asks. **Page 29**

■ **British best:** The Royal Ballet presents a stylish revival of Frederick Ashton's *Cinderella*, that knocks spots off the Kirov's Nutcracker down the road. **Page 30**

■ **Back on top:** After years in the twilight zone, the rock guitarist Peter Green, founder of Fleetwood Mac, is back performing live again. **Page 31**

■ **Giving strong:** She may be 57, but Tina Turner defies the passing years with a high-voltage show at Wembley Arena. **Page 31**

■ **Caitlin Moran:** One day of ear-frazzling record joy. **Page 31**

■ **Secret India:** Quentin Letts on the castration of India — the hidden community that harks back to the days of the harem. **Page 14**

■ **Stage doctor:** If he had completed his PhD thesis and become Dr John Sessions, perhaps he would not feel compelled to display his erudition; but then he would have been lost to the stage. **Page 15**

■ **Toy story:** Parents in American toy stores are fighting over fury dolls which, when touched, squirm and emit funny noises. Tickle Me Elmo dolls are the unexpected success of the season. **Page 15**

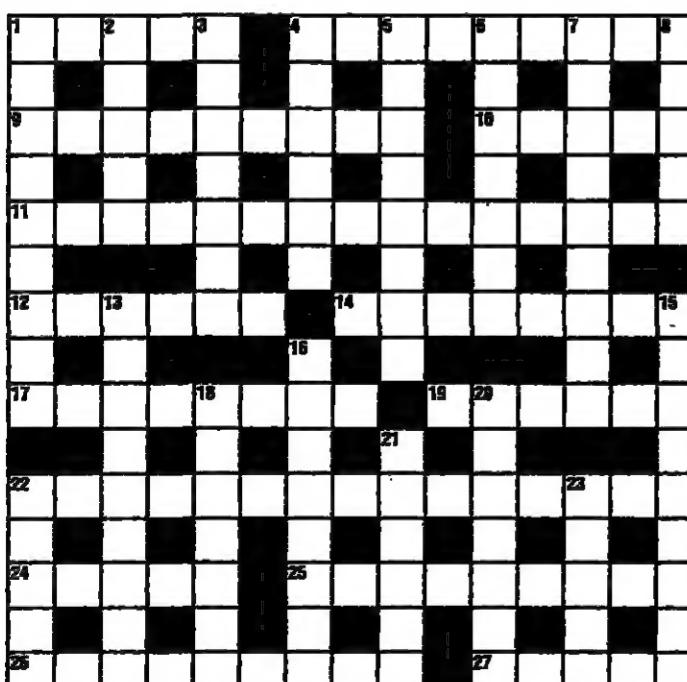
■ **ROGER SCRUTON:** Do you remember the glorious days of Soviet communism, when each seat in the Soviet was contested by two candidates, both chosen by the Party? This is how the projected new bridge across the Thames was chosen. **Page 16**

■ **PHILIP HOWARD:** The Speaker of Question Time Past was a handsome woman dressed in buckles and bows. She smiled at Stooge in a lofty but not unfriendly way. And as he grasped her tunic, they seemed to be whisked in an instant high up into the highest gallery of the debating chamber he knew so well, and where he continually strove to lead his party when he was not following it. **Page 16**

■ **Marcello Mastroianni, Italian film star; Yuli Khariton, Soviet nuclear physicist; Arthur Jacobs, music critic** **Page 19**

■ **Duke's views on gun legislation; university funding; the culture of litigation; CPS proposal on disclosure to the defence; Croatia and Bosnia; royal succession; road pricing** **Page 17**

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